



Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the White House Build America Investment Initiative roundtable, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Fact-finding group ready to investigate airstrike in Kunduz

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission has told the U.S. and Afghan governments it's ready to investigate deadly U.S. airstrikes on a Doctors Without Borders hospital in northern Afghanistan — if they agree.

The IHFFC said Wednesday it has "proposed its services" to the countries after the repeated U.S. airstrikes Oct. 3 that devastated the hospital in the city of Kunduz, killing 12 staffers of medical aid group Doctors Without Borders and 10 patients amid fighting between Afghan forces and Taliban rebels.

U.S. officials have insisted the strikes were a mistake, and President Barack Obama has apologized to Doctors Without Borders' international president.

Acting "on its own initiative", the IHFFC said it sent identical letters on the issue to the governments on Oct. 7. The intergovernmental body, based in Bern and set up under an annex of the Geneva Convention, can only launch a mission if authorized by the concerned state or states. Created after the Gulf War in 1991, it has never deployed one.

The U.S. has vowed to conduct an investigation, but says an international probe is not needed. Afghan authorities are also investigating.

Thilo Marauhn, a law professor at Germany's University of Giessen and commission first vice president, said: "It's not our job to tell states what to do."

"We are not pressuring them, but we are inviting them" to accept, he said, before adding: "It would be fairly easy for the U.S. to say, 'We are the good guys, and we authorize this impartial, independent institution to conduct an inquiry' ... The U.S. could basically position itself as a country that promotes compliance with (international humanitarian law)." □

Israeli army begins deploying troops amid attacks

TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of soldiers fanned out in cities across Israel on Wednesday and authorities erected concrete barriers outside some Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem in a stepped up effort to counter a month-long wave of Palestinian violence that has seen near daily attacks.

Despite the escalated security, two assaults were reported Wednesday — the stabbing of a 70-year-old Israeli woman outside a crowded Jerusalem bus station and the attempted knifing of police officers outside the Old City.

The enhanced measures came as Israel struggles to contain the spiraling violence and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces heavy pressure from hard-liners in his governing coalition to stamp out the attacks. The Palestinians called the new measures "collective punishment" that would only further enflame tensions.

The military's deployment of six companies to back up thousands of police marks the first implementation of steps approved by Israel's security Cabinet early Wednesday, which also include stripping attackers of their Jerusalem residency rights and demolishing assailants' homes. The Cabinet also authorized police to impose closures on centers of friction and incitement in Jerusalem.

Israel has been unable to stop the attacks, carried out mostly by young Palestinians apparently acting spontaneously with no affiliation to or backing from organized militant groups. That, coupled with the frequency of the attacks, which have killed eight Israelis this month, including three on Tuesday, has unnerved Israelis who fear the violence could deteriorate into another Palestinian uprising.

Palestinian leaders say the violence is the result of frustration and lack of hope for ending nearly 50 years of occupation and gaining

independence.

Israeli police said 300 soldiers had been deployed in cities across Israel, joining a reinforced force of some 4,000 police officers already patrolling the streets and bus routes of Jerusalem. On Wednesday, police were seen waving through a line of cars as



Israeli police secure the scene of a stabbing attack in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015. An Israeli woman was stabbed by an Arab and attacker was shot, the police spokesman said.

(AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)

cranes placed concrete blocks at the entrances to Arab neighborhoods in east Jerusalem, where many of the assailants are from.

"I think all the decisions we took ... will lead eventually to us being able to restore calm," Israeli Interior Minister Silvan Shalom told Israeli Channel 2 TV news.

But even with the heightened security, more violence hit Jerusalem on Wednesday.

Police said the 70-year-old woman was wounded in a knife attack as she boarded a bus outside Jerusalem's central bus station. Forces on the scene shot and killed the attacker, who Israel's internal security service Shin Bet said was a 23-year-old Palestinian resident of Jerusalem who had been jailed from 2012 until earlier this year.

Earlier, police shot and killed a 19-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank city of Hebron who they said had attempted to stab police officers outside

Jerusalem's Old City.

Israel said that as part of the new measures, the bodies of dead Palestinian attackers would not be returned to their families for burial.

Israel's Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan said the funeral processions of Palestinians who killed Is-

raeli shrine and a key national symbol for the Palestinians.

Israel has adamantly denied the allegation, saying the violence has been driven by what it calls rampant incitement against Jews on social media spread by Islamic groups and the Palestinian leadership.

raelis often turn into "an exhibition of support for terror and incitement to murder." He said Israel should not allow them to "enjoy respect and ceremonies" after their deaths.

The funerals are a frequent flashpoint for clashes and often include calls for revenge. Erdan suggested the attackers be buried without fanfare in distant cemeteries where Palestinian killers have previously been buried.

Besides the eight Israelis killed in a string of stabbings, shootings and the stoning of a car, 31 Palestinians also have died — 14 of them identified by Israel as attackers and the rest killed in stone-throwing clashes with Israeli forces.

The violence erupted a month ago over the Jewish New Year, fueled by rumors that Israel was plotting to take over Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, a hilltop compound revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-ho-

In a briefing to foreign journalists Wednesday, Israeli Cabinet minister Yuval Steinitz showed Palestinian videos and animations that glorified the stabbings of Jews in the Old City of Jerusalem and the killing of a Jewish settler couple in the West Bank in front of their children.

He also quoted recent statements by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in which he blessed "every drop of blood spilled for Allah" and asserted that Jews desecrated a Jerusalem holy site with their "filthy feet."

"This is not new. It is just a new wave of terrorism and violence and this time it's totally clear that the main approach here is a religious approach," Steinitz said. "It's all about horrible, anti-Jewish, racist incitement." Palestinians say the violence, coming at a time when prospects for gaining independence appear nil, is the result of years of occupation and failed peace efforts. □

Biden's Path to 2016 Grows Murky Following Debate

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden's potential path to the White House grew murkier on Wednesday as Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton emerged strengthened from the party's first debate of the 2016 race, while Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders solidified himself as her chief rival.

Hunger among some Democrats for Biden to enter the race has built for months amid concerns about low enthusiasm among voters for Clinton and questions about her use of a private email account and server. While Biden's supporters and confidantes insisted he isn't taking his cues from Clinton, she nonetheless delivered a strong performance in the debate, gliding over potential hurdles while casting herself as the natural heir and protector of President Barack Obama's legacy.

"The vice president would still be a formidable candidate, but there is no question that Hillary Clinton assuaged a lot of Democrats nervous about the strength of her candidacy," said

Dan Pfeiffer, a former long-time political adviser to President Barack Obama. Meanwhile, Sanders' campaign said Wednesday it raised nearly \$2 million in the hours after the debate, while social media metrics showed he was the most-searched candidate on Google and most-discussed on Facebook and Twitter.

While Biden's indecision had been expected to loom conspicuously over the debate stage, the vice president instead was a non-entity.

His name didn't come up once during the two-hour event, and he acknowledged Wednesday the party's field of candidates appeared to be in good shape without him.

"I was proud," Biden said. "I thought every one of those folks last night — my own prejudice — I thought they all did well."

He did not respond to a shouted question about when he'll announce his decision, and Clinton refused to comment on the impact Biden's indecision may have on Democratic party chances in the general election. □

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Clinton's strong debate is a general election warning



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton poses for a selfie while stopping for ice cream Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, in North Las Vegas, Nev. Clinton made a stop for ice cream with her staff and posed for pictures with people.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton's polished performance in the first Democratic debate served more than anything as a warning to the chaotic Republican field about her

likely strength in a general election.

While her strong debate performance may have solidified her standing as the party's front-runner, she still faces tough competition

from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent and self-proclaimed democratic socialist. Clinton aides insist the former secretary of state isn't taking the Democratic nomination for granted.

The debate was the first for the Democratic hopefuls with nearly four months to go before primary voting begins and more than a year before Election Day. On the Republican side, billionaire Donald Trump has surprised the political world with his rise to the top of the polls, but no clear favorite has emerged among a crowded field of contenders. On Tuesday, Clinton mostly appeared to be setting her sights on the Republican field.

"I can take the fight to the Republicans, because we

cannot afford a Republican to succeed Barack Obama as president of the United States," she said. She referenced Republicans a dozen times during the two-hour debate, even putting the party alongside the Iranians and National Rifle Association on a list of enemies she was proud to have made.

David Plouffe, an architect of Obama's two campaigns, wrote on Twitter that Clinton looked like a candidate who could win the general election.

To be sure, Clinton remains a flawed candidate. Her evolving policy positions leave her open to charges that she shifts with the political winds. She's a Washington insider in an election cycle where voters have shown more interest in out-

siders. And just as the Republicans' raucous first two debates exposed deep divisions and pressure on candidates to appease conservative primary voters without alienating the national electorate, the opposition party argues that Clinton's shifts to the left on major issues would hurt her in the general election.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said Wednesday that Clinton was locked in "a race to the left to see who could be the most radically liberal, the most big government." And former-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush cast Clinton as the beneficiary of a Democratic field that side-stepped confrontations over her private email use, a controversy that has dogged her campaign for months. □

Sanders, Clinton look to build on debate performances

BILL BARROW

JULIE BYKOWICZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bernie Sanders looked to build Wednesday on their strong Democratic presidential debate performances that appeared to narrow any opening for a White House bid by Vice President Joe Biden.

Sanders, a Vermont senator, has built an insurgent campaign that draws huge crowds — nearly always bigger than Clinton's — and boasts far more individual donors than the former secretary of state. But he's still introducing himself to voters nationally — a task made obvious Tuesday night as he had to explain his identity as a "democratic socialist."

Clinton, meanwhile, already is widely known to the electorate, and she is working methodically not to repeat the mistakes of her 2008 campaign, when then-Sen. Barack Obama used an impressive nuts-and-bolts operation to overtake Clinton's favored campaign.

The debate was the first for the Democratic hopefuls



Democratic residential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, speaks during a fundraiser at the Avalon Hollywood, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, in Hollywood, Calif.

(AP Photo/Danny Moloshok)

with nearly four months to go before primary voting begins and more than a year before Election Day. On the Republican side, billionaire Donald Trump has surprised the political world with his rise to the top of the polls, but no clear favorite has emerged among a crowded field of contenders.

Clinton defended her record on foreign affairs, in-

cluding her 2003 vote to authorize the Iraq War — and issue that Obama successfully hammered her on in their 2008 primary battle. Clinton used the discussion to align herself with the president, who remains extremely popular among Democratic voters.

"After the (2008) election, he asked me to become secretary of state," she noted. "He valued my

judgment, and I spent a lot of time with him in the Situation Room, going over some very difficult issues." Perhaps most important for Clinton, she left many observers wondering whether Biden still has an opening for a late entry into the race.

At a White House meeting Wednesday, Biden said he was proud of all the candidates who took part in the

debate and thought they did well.

David Axelrod, an unaligned Democratic strategist who helped mastermind Obama's 2008 campaign, said on Wednesday Clinton emerged stronger with a "very self-assured, powerful performance" that should give Biden pause, while Sanders had a strong performance but still fell short of projecting the persona of a nominee. Sanders, he said, appears to be running to pull the party leftward.

The senator delivered one of the most memorable moments when he decried the focus on Clinton's use of a private email server while serving as secretary of state. The controversy had raised security questions that Republicans have seized on.

Sanders he made clear that he wasn't necessarily defending Clinton but bemoaned the attention the controversy takes away from other matters, particularly his focus on an uneven economy tilted to those already at the top.

"I think the American people want substantive debate on the issues affecting their families," he told CNN late Tuesday after the debate, during which he outlined his pitch for universal health care, free college tuition and paid family leave, ideas he said he'd pay for with tax hikes on wealthy Americans.

Both Clinton and Sanders camps declared the debate a success.

Sanders' campaign says that he raised more than \$1.3 million since the start of the debate and that social media measures showed Sanders led Google searches and some Twitter metrics during and after the debate.

Three other candidates, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, struggled to make an impact that would lift them from the bottom of the polls. □

Trump sets sights on Sanders for new target



Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump greets supporters after a speech at a rally in Richmond, Va., Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Republican presidential

front-runner Donald Trump

has a new target for his

barbs: Democratic contender Sen. Bernie Sanders. Trump told thousands of people at a rally at the Richmond International Raceway in Virginia Wednesday evening that Sanders is a "maniac" who is pushing Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton to the left.

He says the self-described "democratic socialist" should be described as a "socialist-slash-communist" because he wants to tax the rich at such high rates. The billionaire businessman's campaign also released an online ad earlier in the day questioning Sanders' strength.

The appearance marked Trump's first in the state and his first since the debate between the Democratic contenders Tuesday evening. It was interrupted at one point by a small group of rowdy protesters who were escorted out of the venue. □

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Police: Brothers were beaten in church to make them confess

JOHN KEKIS

Associated Press

NEW HARTFORD, New York (AP) —

Two teenage brothers were brutally beaten in church — one of them fatally — in an effort by their parents, sister and other members of the congregation to force them to confess their sins and seek forgiveness, police said Wednesday.

Police Chief Michael Inserra said investigators are still looking into what the supposed sins were.

Lucas and Christopher Leonard, 19 and 17, were pounded with fists Sunday at the Word of Life Church when a "counseling session" meant to explore their spiritual state turned violent, Inserra said. They were beaten in the abdomen, genitals, back and thighs, authorities said.

Lucas died and his brother was hospitalized in serious condition. Six church members — including the brothers' parents and sister — have been arrested.

"Both brothers were subjected to physical punishment over the course of several hours, in hopes that each would confess to prior sins and ask for forgive-

ness," Inserra said.

The parents, Bruce and Deborah Leonard, were charged with manslaughter in Lucas' death. Four other adults were charged with assault in the younger brother's beating, including Sarah Ferguson, 33, the victims' sister. All have pleaded not guilty.

Lawyers for the parents and the sister had no comment. Contact information for the other defendants' attorneys wasn't immediately available.

The church is a former elementary school where a Christian congregation has worshipped for as many as 30 years.

Neighbors in the once-thriving mill town of 22,000 people about 50 miles east of Syracuse said the congregation's secretive ways made them suspicious.

"I'm really afraid. In my heart I don't think this is the first incident," said Eva Monaghan, who lives around the corner from the church. "Over all the years, I can't imagine this is the first thing. Maybe nothing as bad. Around town, it's considered a cult."

Police said more arrests are expected as the investiga-



From left, Sarah Ferguson, 33, Linda Morey, 54, Joseph Irwin, 26, and David Morey, 26, are arraigned in front of Judge Bill M. Virkler after being charged with second-degree assault of 17-year-old Christopher T. Leonard, in New Hartford, N.Y.

(Mark DiOrio/Observer-Dispatch via AP)

tion continues.

The investigation began about 12:30 p.m. Monday when family members brought Lucas Leonard to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police surrounded the church and

entered it. Several children were turned over to child welfare authorities.

Nancy Kneller, who works at a Catholic church next door to Word of Life, described the congregation as a close-knit group.

"It's really sad. I think that people have always been so suspicious. Why are they so secretive? Why are there no kids out playing?" she said. Still, she said, "I think they're good people that made a bad decision." □

Customs agents: Traveler hid cocaine in oil, vinegar bottles

NEW YORK (AP) — Law enforcement officials say a passenger arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport had 11 pounds of liquid cocaine packed into oil and vinegar bottles.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection says the cocaine was found Oct. 5 when Andres Josue Leal Valle arrived with three suitcases and a carry-on bag. Agents say they opened bottles of oil and vinegar in Leal Valle's luggage

and detected an unusual chemical odor.

Customs officials say the liquid in six bottles tested positive for cocaine. They say the total weight of the cocaine was 11 pounds and the street value was \$194,000. The case is under investigation by the Department of Homeland Security. No information on an attorney for Leal Valle was immediately available.

Leal Valle is a citizen of Guatemala. □



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Texas executes inmate for Dallas police officer's 2001 death

MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) —

A Texas man already being sought for a neighbor's slaying when he killed a Dallas police officer outside a club was executed Wednesday.

Licho Escamilla was put to death for the November 2001 death of Christopher Kevin James who was trying to break up a brawl involving Escamilla. The 33-year-old prisoner was pronounced dead at 6:31 p.m. CDT (2331 GMT) — 18 minutes after the lethal injection began.

Escamilla became the 24th convicted killer executed this year in the United States. Texas has accounted for 12 of the executions. Before dying, Escamilla looked at the slain officer's daughter, who was seated a few feet away watching through a window, and told her: "God bless your heart." He turned to his relatives watching through another window and said he loved them and everyone who supported him.



This undated handout photo provided by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shows Licho Escamilla. Escamilla is set to die Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, for the slaying of Dallas Police Officer Christopher Kevin James.

(AP Photo/Texas Department of Criminal Justice via AP)

"Pope Francis, God's children has asked the state of Texas to switch my death sentence to life in prison," he said. "But the state of Texas has refused to listen to God's children.

"They will have to take that up with God," he added. He took two breaths as the sedative pentobarbital took effect, then became still. His sister cried and screamed for God not to take him. The rumbling of motorcycles could be heard outside the prison where bikers supporting the punishment had gathered. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to review his case last week and no additional appeals were filed as his execution neared. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles on Monday decided against a reprieve and clemency.

James and three other uniformed officers were working off-duty when the brawl started. Escamilla pulled out a gun and opened fire on the officers as they tried to end the fight.

The bullets from his 9 mm

semi-automatic handgun struck James twice, knocking him to the ground. Escamilla then calmly walked up to the officer and fired three more shots into the back of his head before running and exchanging shots with other officers, witnesses said. A second officer wounded in the shootout survived.

A wounded Escamilla was arrested as he tried to carjack a truck.

About a half-dozen Dallas police officers stood at attention and saluted as relatives of the slain officer entered the prison in Huntsville ahead of the execution.

"It's taken longer than we would have liked," Frederick Frazier, first vice president of the Dallas Police Association, said.

He said he and others showed up to support James and make sure he's remembered for the work he did. While officers know they're risking their lives every day, James' death has been difficult for them because of how it happened, Frazier added. □

3 charged with killing tourist, yoga teacher appear in court

SAN RAFAEL, California (AP) — Three transients appeared briefly in court Wednesday for the first time since they were charged with killing and robbing a Canadian backpacker and a yoga instructor days apart in California.

Morrison Haze Lampley, 23, Sean Michael Angold, 24, and Lila Scott Alligood, 18, did not enter pleas Wednesday in Marin County Superior Court but appeared with new buzz cuts after having their hair cut in jail. Alligood and Angold had both sported long hair when they were arrested

last week.

Lampley, accused of pulling the trigger of a stolen gun in both killings, yawned frequently as the trio was assigned court-appointed attorneys. They were ordered to return to court Oct. 26. All three could be sentenced to death if convicted, but Marin District Attorney Edward Berberian said he will decide later whether to pursue the death penalty. Public defender David Brown, who represents Lampley, declined to comment about the case Wednesday morning to The Associated Press,

saying he needs time to review the evidence. Angold and Alligood are still waiting to be assigned lawyers qualified to handle possible death penalty cases.

The three are charged with shooting backpacker Audrey Carey, 23, in the head and stealing her camping gear, passport and airline tickets. Her body was found Oct. 3 in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, where officials believed she had camped during a three-day music festival. Carey lived in Quebec and had just started a backpacking trek in the United States

and Europe. They also are accused of killing Steve Carter, 67, while he walked his dog along a popular hiking trail in Marin County, 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of the city. Carter was shot multiple times, and his body was discovered on Oct. 5, investigators say. Followers credited Carter with improving their romantic relationships by teaching tantra, a philosophy of meditation, yoga and sexuality famously embraced by rock star Sting. His Doberman Pinscher also was shot but is expected to survive. The three are

charged with animal cruelty. The suspects have "no fixed address," Marin County sheriff's Lt. Doug Pittman said. They were arrested outside a Portland, Oregon, soup kitchen last week. They were found with the stolen gun, Carter's Volkswagen station wagon and items belonging to Carey, according to investigators and a criminal complaint.

The complaint also charges Lampley with being a felon in possession of a gun. It says he was convicted in July of receiving a stolen car in San Diego. □

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US Financial Front:

Fed says consumer spending, auto sales boost US growth

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Federal Reserve says steady consumer spending and an improving housing market spurred modest U.S. economic growth in the late summer, though factory output was sluggish in part because of the strong dollar.

The Fed said Wednesday in its latest snapshot of the economy that nine of its 12 regional banks reported that growth was moderate or modest from mid-August through the beginning of October. Two banks said economic activity increased while the Kansas City Fed said the economy slowed slightly. The Fed's report echoes other recent data that suggests the U.S. economy, while still expanding, has run into headwinds from overseas and lost some momentum. Most analysts forecast that growth will fall sharply in the July-September quarter to an annual pace of about 1.5 percent from 3.9 percent in April-June.

The report, known as the beige book, will be used by Fed policymakers as a basis for discussing the economy's health when they meet next on Oct. 27-28. The beige book is released eight times a year and consists of anecdotal reports from businesses in each of the 12 districts. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said the Fed may raise short-term interest rates before the end of the year should the economy continue to expand. Yet



A shopper checks out at a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market store in Bentonville, Ark. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 said steady consumer spending and an improving housing market spurred modest U.S. economic growth in the late summer, though factory output was sluggish in part because of the strong dollar.

(AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

most analysts expect that if an increase does occur this year, it will happen in December rather than this month.

Americans generally

boosted their spending, likely because of solid hiring in the past year that has put 2.8 million people to work. Auto sales were even stronger, particularly

in the Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago and Dallas districts.

Hiring rose at a modest to moderate pace in nine of the 12 bank districts, the

beige book said. The Boston Fed said that advertising and consulting firms were planning to add jobs, while manufacturers were laying off workers.

Yet even as job gains were steady, wage growth "remained subdued" in most regions, the Fed's report said. Eight districts said that only slight to modest pay gains occurred from mid-August through early October.

Steep drops in oil and gas prices in the past year continued to weigh on many energy producers, which are still cutting jobs in Texas, the Dallas Fed said. Oil and gas drillers are also ordering less steel pipe and other equipment, dragging down factory output, according to many districts.

Manufacturers are also struggling because of the strong dollar, which has increased about 13 percent in value against a basket of other currencies in the past 12 months. □

US producer prices fell in September on cheap gas

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Prices fell for manufacturers, farmers and other producers in September, as lower energy costs have limited broader inflation.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that the producer price index, which measures price changes before they reach the consumer, dropped 0.5 percent last month after being unchanged in August. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core

prices tumbled 0.3 percent in September.

All of this suggests that the Federal Reserve may delay on an expected rate hike until signs of inflation appear. "The economy is stuck and deflation pressures are the key risk," said Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Mizuho Securities.

Wholesale prices have decreased 1.1 percent from a year ago, with September marking the eighth straight 12-month decline. Gasoline costs fell a sharp 16.6 percent, while food prices slid

0.8 percent.

Consumer prices, meanwhile, have barely risen. According to the Federal Reserve's preferred measure, they increased just 0.3 percent in August from a year earlier. Excluding the volatile categories of food and energy, core prices have risen a gentle 1.3 percent in the 12 months ending in August.

Those inflation figures are far from the Fed's 2 percent inflation target, a gap that could cause Fed policymakers to postpone a

rate hike at their Oct. 27-28 meeting. Many analysts had anticipated that the Fed would increase short-term interest rates at its September meeting for the first time in nine years. But the U.S. central bank held off amid concerns about China's economy growing at a slower pace and sharp volatility in the U.S. stock market. The Fed has said that it needs to feel "reasonably confident" that inflation will move back to its 2 percent target before beginning to raise interest rates. □

US Business Extra: Wal-Mart plunges after profit warning

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart stock had its biggest one-day drop in nearly three decades after the world's largest retailer said it's bracing for its profit to take a hit as it works to fend off competition. The company is forecasting its profit to fall by as much as 12 percent in its next fiscal year as it perks up customer service and adapts to changing shopping habits. It also expects sales for this full fiscal year to be flat, hurt by unfavor-

ating pace," said McMillon, who took the job in February 2014. Under McMillon, Wal-Mart has accelerated the openings of smaller stores, which tend to be more conveniently located and let customers get in and out faster. On Wednesday, it also said it was expanding its online grocery with free pickup to 10 additional markets, making the service available in a total of 20 markets in the U.S. Such moves, along with a

while running a tighter ship. Instead of throwing away a princess costume for Halloween that is missing its crown, for instance, he said stores would mark it down to a lower price. He said Wal-Mart customers would be "happy" to pay less for such an item. More broadly, Foran is spearheading a major overhaul of the U.S. division, which accounts for 60 percent of the company's total business. That includes basics like making



Wal-Mart Store, Inc., Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon speaks at the Wal-Mart shareholder meeting in Fayetteville, Ark. Wal-Mart on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 said it expects profit to fall for its next fiscal year and cut its sales outlook for this year as it works to fend off intensifying competition and perk up stores with better customer service.

able currency exchange rates. Wal-Mart had previously forecast sales growth of 1 to 2 percent. Its stock closed down \$6.70, or 10 percent, at \$60.03 Wednesday. The disappointing guidance comes as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. works to fix its business amid pressure from rivals including traditional grocers, dollar stores and Amazon.com. At its annual meeting in New York City Wednesday, CEO Doug McMillon sought to reassure investors that that the profit decline next year is part of its plans to position for the future. "We all know that retail has changed and will continue to change at an acceler-

push to improve the cleanliness of its U.S. stores, are expected to help attract more higher-income customers than in the past, McMillon said. But he noted the company would also remain focused on shoppers who are driven by low prices. Wal-Mart is under pressure on that front as well, with smaller discounters posing a greater threat. The company said its store brands, which tend to cost less, will play a key role in making it more competitive with discounters. Greg Foran, who took over as CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. division last year, also noted on Wednesday the company's commitment to delivering low prices

sure stores are cleaner and well stocked. The stores have been criticized for messy aisles and not having enough workers to restock shelves. For its fiscal 2017, Wal-Mart expects earnings per share to be down 6 to 12 percent. The company attributed a big portion of the decline to its plan on raising wages and providing more training for workers, which Wal-Mart hopes will lead to improved service. Wal-Mart, which is also facing pressure from worker groups calling for better pay, increased its minimum wages for U.S. employees to \$9 per hour in April. The figure will rise to \$10 per hour by February 2016. □

(AP Photo/Danny Johnston)

Netflix adds 3.62M subscribers in 3Q, but growth lagging in US

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Binging on Netflix may be losing some of its appeal in the U.S., even as the addiction rapidly spreads to other parts of the world. The Internet video service added 3.62 million subscribers during the three months ended September, it announced Wednesday as part of its third-quarter earnings. That's slightly more than the company had predicted.

But Netflix didn't gain as many U.S. subscribers during the latest quarter as management anticipated, a shortfall that it blamed on an unusually large number of accounts cancelled because the company couldn't charge their credit cards. The company believes the trouble is tied to a large number of new credit-card account numbers banks are issuing as they adopt card technology based on computer chips instead of magnetic stripes.

In the third quarter, Netflix gained just 880,000 subscribers in the U.S., below the 1.15 million customers that the company had predicted. It was also fewer than the 980,000 U.S. subscribers that the service added this time last year. Netflix has picked up 16 million more subscribers during the past year alone, leaving the service with 69 million worldwide customers as of September.

Disappointing growth in the U.S. appeared to raise fears that Netflix may be having trouble attracting more subscribers in its biggest market. It's facing tougher Internet-video competition from Amazon.com, Hulu and an online-only application from pay-TV provider HBO.

"We're all racing to fulfill consumer desires," Netflix CEO Reed Hastings wrote in a letter accompanying the third-quarter results.

Netflix's stock shed \$8.23, or 7.5 percent, to \$102 in extended trading after the numbers came out. Even with that drop, the shares have still more than doubled so far this year.

Nearly two-thirds of Netflix's subscribers, 43 million accounts, are located in the U.S. But the streaming service is turning into a global phenomenon; Netflix is pushing to offer its service in 200 countries by the end of next year.

Netflix is currently available in about 80 nations, meaning it will have to launch its service in an average of about eight more countries each month to meet its deadline. The service will start streaming in Spain, Italy and Portugal before the end of this year and then go into South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore early next year.

Many of the countries located in Asia and Africa are likely to be more challenging to navigate than the mostly European and Latin American countries that Netflix has already entered.

The Los Gatos, California, company currently has 26 million subscribers outside the U.S., a 64 percent increase from the same time last year when it was in fewer countries.

The international push is costing Netflix hundreds of millions of dollars, although the company has remained profitable. Netflix earned \$29.4 million in its latest quarter, a 50 percent drop from the same time last year. The company expects to bring even next year.

Netflix's profit margins are also being squeezed as it pours more money into original programming such as the "Orange Is The New Black," which can only be seen on its service initially. □

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Iran sends fighters to Syria, escalating its involvement

ZEINA KARAM
SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press
BEIRUT (AP) —

Hundreds of Iranian troops are being deployed in northern and central Syria, dramatically escalating Tehran's involvement in the civil war as they join allied Hezbollah fighters in an ambitious offensive to wrest key areas from rebels amid Russian airstrikes.

Their arrival, a regional official and Syrian activists said Wednesday, highlights the far-reaching goals of Russia's military involvement in Syria. It suggests that, for now, taking on Islamic State extremists in eastern Syria seems a secondary priority to propping up President Bashar Assad. The development is almost certain to increase pressure on Western-backed rebels, who are battling multiple foes, and push more civilians out of the areas of fighting, potentially creating a fresh wave of refugees.

Russia began its air campaign Sept. 30, and Syrian troops and allied militia-men launched a ground offensive against rebels in central Syria a week later. Russia says its airstrikes are meant to weaken the Islamic State group and other "terrorists" in Syria,

but Western officials and Syrian rebels say most of the strikes have focused on central and northern Syria, where the extremist group does not have a strong presence.

The official, who has deep knowledge of operational details in Syria, said the Iranian Revolutionary Guards — currently numbering around 1,500 — began arriving about two weeks ago, after the Russian airstrikes began, and have accelerated recently. The Iranian-backed group Hezbollah has also sent a fresh wave of fighters to Syria, he told The Associated Press. Iranian and Syrian officials have long acknowledged Iran has advisers and military experts in Syria, but denied there were any ground troops. Wednesday's statements were the first confirmation of Iranian fighters taking part in combat operations in Syria.

The main goal is to secure the strategic Hama-Aleppo highway and seize the key rebel-held town of Jisr al-Shughour in Idlib province, which Assad's forces lost in April to insurgents that included al-Qaida's Nusra Front.

The loss of Jisr al-Shughour, followed by the fall of the entire province, was a resounding defeat for Assad,

opening the way for rebels to threaten his Alawite heartland in the coastal province of Latakia. The official suggested the Syr-

on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss military affairs. He said the Russian "tsunami wave" has given

servatory for Human Rights also reported Wednesday that Iranian troops were arriving and being transported to a military base in the



A Hezbollah fighter looks toward Syria while standing in the fields of the Lebanese border village of Brital, Lebanon. Hundreds of Iranian troops are being deployed in northern and central Syria, dramatically escalating Tehran's involvement in the civil war as they join allied Hezbollah fighters in an ambitious offensive to wrest key areas from rebels amid Russian airstrikes.

(AP Photo/Bassem Mroue)

ian army's alarmingly tenacious position around that time is what persuaded the Russians to join the fray and begin airstrikes two weeks ago.

The Syrian government and Iran had been asking Russia to intervene for a year, the official said, speaking

allies such as Iran the cover to operate more freely in Syria.

His account of Iranian troops arriving ties in with reports from Syrian opposition activists, who reported a troop buildup in the northern provinces of Idlib and Aleppo. The Syrian Ob-

coastal town of Latakia, in the town of Jableh outside the provincial capital.

At least two senior Iranian commanders were killed in Syria in recent days, including Gen. Hossein Hamedani, a senior Revolutionary Guard commander, who died Oct. 8 near Aleppo. □

Turkey warns US, Russia over support to Syria Kurds

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey has complained to the U.S. ambassador about possible weapons aid to Syrian Kurdish forces and has also warned Russia not to support the militia group that is affiliated with Turkey's Kurdish rebels, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Wednesday. Davutoglu said that the weapons could fall into

the hands of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and be used against Turkey.

A Foreign Ministry official said Turkey summoned the U.S. and Russian ambassadors separately on Tuesday to convey Turkey's concerns.

The U.S. military said Monday that cargo planes had dropped small arms ammunition to Arab groups

fighting the Islamic State group in northern Syria.

A local Kurdish official in the northern Syrian city of Kobani said the U.S. had provided 120 tons of weapons and ammunition to the main Kurdish militia fighting the Islamic State group in that area. The official, Mustafa Bali, said he did not know whether the supplies had been provid-

ed by air or over land. The U.S. military did not confirm the delivery of weapons or ammunition to Syrian Kurds in the last week.

"No one can guarantee that arms given to the PYD today, won't tomorrow fall in the hands of the PKK and used against Turkey," Davutoglu said, referring to the Syrian Kurdish group Democratic Union Party.

"Turkey cannot accept any kind of cooperation with terror organizations that have declared war against Turkey."

Turkey and its allies, including the United States, have labeled the PKK a terrorist organization. The Syrian Kurdish militias however, have become a key U.S. ally, in the fight against the Islamic State extremists. □

China-North Korea ties warm with Pyongyang visit

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The two men raised their clasped hands above their heads like a pair of victorious athletes, as international media and tens of thousands of North Koreans looked on. The gesture by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a top Chinese official during a high-profile celebration in Pyongyang seemed designed to scotch appearances that their countries have been drifting apart.

Now the big question: Will warmer relations with China moderate the North's provocative and unpredictable behavior, seen by many as the biggest threat to peace and security in northeast Asia?

Liu Yunshan, the ruling Communist Party's fifth-ranked official, was Kim's most prominent foreign guest at Saturday's military parade and mass rally marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party of Korea. Liu and Kim shook hands and raised their arms together on the balcony of the palatial People's Grand Study House.

The evening before, the two had met at a state guesthouse where Liu handed Kim a personal letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping renewing the traditional friendship between the communist neighbors and stating China's desire to further develop ties, ac-

cording to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Kim, Xinhua said, responded that Liu's presence was a sign of the "deep affec-

diplomatic gambits.

Kim did not respond directly, saying only that North Korea wanted peace and improved re-

visit has already discouraged a new provocation. Weeks before Saturday's parade, comments in North Korean media had



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, waves his hands with Chinese official Liu Yunshan during a military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the North's ruling party and trumpet Kim's third-generation leadership in Pyongyang, North Korea. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

tion" between the sides and a "great encouragement" to the North.

"I believe this visit will play a major role in transmitting the North Korea-China friendship and developing bilateral relations," Kim was quoted as saying.

Liu closed his remarks by reiterating China's hopes for a resumption of six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, something Pyongyang has refused to do since they bogged down in 2009, stifling one of Beijing's more successful

lations with South Korea to build its economy and improve quality of life. North Korea has repeatedly said it has no intention of giving up its limited nuclear weapons capability.

"I think this is a gradual restoration of a sense of normalcy between the two countries," said Jingdong Yuan, a specialist on Asia-Pacific security at Australia's University of Sydney. "Bilateral relations have really been strained to some extent because of North Korean provocations."

It's conceivable that Liu's

led some analysts to suspect the North planned to mark the party anniversary with a satellite launch that would have been viewed internationally as an illegal test of long-range-missile technology. With no launch occurring, some now speculate that Liu's presence in Pyongyang was a deterrent.

Given the extreme insularity of the relationship — and uncertainty about the extent of Chinese influence over the North — it's always difficult to assess the true state of relations.

EU expects Britain to come up with reform plans fast

RAF CASERT

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders say they are increasingly frustrated that British Prime Minister David Cameron has not made concrete proposals on reform of the bloc despite all Britain's talk of possibly leaving unless there is fundamental change.

On the eve of a summit of EU leaders where the issue is expected to be only lightly touched upon, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told the EU Parliament Wednesday that "I can't say that huge progress has been achieved."

Juncker insisted he wants Britain to remain in the EU but added that "to tango, it takes two. So we have to dance, and our British friends have to dance."

Cameron set out in May to change the way the EU is run and wants to cut the EU's political powers over member states. He plans to hold a national vote before the end of 2017 on whether Britain should leave the EU — a possibility that has come to be known as a Brexit.

Ahead of Thursday's summit, Cameron and Juncker will have lunch together as part of a grand tour by the British leader to European capitals to feel out what reforms could be put on the table.

The EU institutions and several member states want to forge ahead and are eagerly awaiting for Britain comes up with its demands, so it is clear to everyone where any reform should be, said one diplomat from an EU nation, who spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were set for Thursday. Britain wants to touch on fundamental social and financial legislation and agreements between member states and make sure nations regain more autonomous decision-making at the expense of EU institutions. □

Turkey detains 2 for tweets in connection to blasts

SUZAN FRASER

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish police have detained two people who sent tweets suggesting there could be a bomb in Ankara a day before twin suicide bombings killed 99 people gathering for a peace rally, officials said Wednesday.

The two suspects were detained after Twitter provided information on users of the accounts, a government official said, adding that the two have ties to the Kurdistan Work-

ers' Party, or PKK, which is fighting Turkey's security forces.

Authorities were trying to determine whether they had prior knowledge about the attacks or links to the bombers, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government rules that bar officials from speaking to journalists without authorization.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu raised the death toll in the attacks to 99 from the previous 97, during a television interview

on Wednesday.

He has said that the main focus of the investigation into the blasts is the Islamic State group. He said Wednesday that the PKK were also under suspicion. "As the investigation deepens, and based especially on certain results we have obtained through Twitter accounts and IP addresses, we can see that both Daesh (IS) and the PKK are groups that are likely to have played an active role," Davutoglu said.

Analysts, however, ex-

pressed skepticism about claims of the PKK's involvement, given that the attack targeted Kurdish activists.

Turkish authorities on Wednesday imposed a ban on reporting on the details of the investigation. The suicide bombings struck at the heart of the capital just weeks before Turkey holds a national election on Nov. 1, following an inconclusive election in June and after a summer of violence that has claimed hundreds of lives. □



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Dominican, Haiti leaders vow to work toward easing disputes

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The leaders of Haiti and the Dominican Republic pledged Tuesday to work toward "better harmonization" regarding a thorny citizenship dispute and ease a trade squabble between the two neighbors.

After a roughly five-hour meeting at the airport in the south coast city of Barahona this week, Dominican President Danilo Medina's administration agreed to talk to Haiti's government about potentially coordinating the return of Haitian migrants

who do not have legal residency. Relations between the neighbors have grown increasingly strained since a Dominican court ruled in 2013 that children born in the country to non-citizens did not qualify for automatic citizenship because

their migrant parents were "in transit." The vast majority of those affected have been Haitians. Haiti has said the actions by Dominican officials, including patrols to detain and deport migrants without documents to prove they are legally living in

the Dominican Republic, was creating a humanitarian crisis. In a joint statement, the governments of Medina and Haitian President Michel Martelly also vowed Tuesday to create a committee to seek solutions to a trade dispute. □

Mystery shrouds missionary slaying, child abduction in Haiti

DAVID McFADDEN Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — No ransom demand has been received since gunmen snatched a 4-year-old boy over the weekend and killed the American missionary who had raised him since he was a severely malnourished infant, church officials said Wednesday. Longtime Haiti-based missionary Roberta Edwards was fatally shot by two attackers who cut off her car on a rutted, dirt road late Saturday near the foster care home and food-distribution site she has run on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince since 2002. She was returning from a gas station with three of her young charges. The Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tennessee, which sponsored Edwards' work at the Sonlight Children's Home, said her two teenage passengers managed to escape after she

told them to run for their lives. Edwards was shot multiple times at the wheel of her car, and the gunmen then grabbed terrified youngster Jonathan "JoJo" Paul and sped off in a vehicle with tinted windows, fellow missionaries said. "Hearts are breaking for him. And we certainly hope that whoever took him, wherever he is, whoever has him, will return him as soon as possible," said Larry Waymire, a longtime colleague and friend of the 55-year-old Edwards. Police have given only the broadest outline of the case and no details of the investigation. The motive behind the killing and apparent kidnapping remains unclear. Harold Pirtle, a church elder who traveled from Tennessee to comfort the children at the home run by Edwards in Croix-des-Bouquets, said she was well aware of the dangers



A photo of 4-year-old Jonathan Paul, nicknamed JoJo, is tacked to a wall at the Sonlight Children's Home in the Port-au-Prince district Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015. Paul was kidnapped from American missionary Roberta Edwards' car after she was fatally shot by gunmen Saturday night as she sat behind the wheel of her car on a residential street.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

in Haiti. She had lived in the impoverished country for two decades, initially moving here with her Haitian husband. The marriage didn't last. During a trip back to Tennessee a couple of months ago, Edwards told church elders that she had considered leaving Haiti, saying she had been feel-

ing "tired" and "scared," Pirtle said. But she never mentioned receiving any threats or provided any specific reasons she felt frightened, he said. "You can imagine being here and doing this work — she'd been doing it for 20 years. And so she had considered leaving the work, but then she said: 'I

can't leave the kids,'" Pirtle said. Waymire said the abducted boy came to the children's home when he was 9 months old. He was just "skin and bones" at the time, and being raised in northeastern Haiti by his blind grandmother, who apparently asked a local preacher to find decent care for him. His mother was dead. Recently taken photographs show a healthy-looking child with bright eyes and a ready smile. Waymire said Jonathan, the second youngest resident at the foster home, rarely left Edwards' side. One of the photos shows him resting in her lap. The killing stunned residents along the area's narrow dirt roads. Hundreds of people, some weeping, gathered outside the gates of the children's home and abutting nutrition center the morning after Edwards' killing. □

Prosecutors allege bad driver bribes at Puerto Rico DMV

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's Justice Department announced Wednesday that it charged 38 people in a scheme that let people pay bribes to get licenses or evade fines. Most of the suspects are government employees

accused of accepting money to eliminate traffic tickets, alter categories on driver's licenses and award licenses to people who skipped required tests, according to Justice Secretary Cesar Miranda. "This type of reproachable behavior not only diverted

money from government funds, but it also puts people's safety at risk," he said. Among those charged are a state police officer, three employees with the island's Treasury Department and nine civilians. The other suspects are em-

ployees with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Miranda said some DMV employees are accused of improperly awarding licenses that allow driving all types of commercial trucks. Officials said the charges cover acts that began

more than a year ago at seven DMV centers across the island. Authorities said some of the suspects would approach people in line at DMV centers with promises of erasing their fines or awarding them licenses in exchange for a fee. □

Narco planes, millions in payloads, fly past Peru military

FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

MAZAMARI, Peru (AP) —

Small planes are hauling more than a ton of cocaine a day out of remote jungles that have become the world's No. 1 coca-producing region and Peru's military has turned a blind eye, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Drug corruption is rife across Peruvian institutions.

But the narco-flight plague exposes the armed forces' drug-war failure because the military controls the valley, from which Bolivia-bound flights stepped up in tempo in the past few years, according to prosecutors, drug police, former military officers and current and former U.S. drug agents.

In part because of the nearly unimpeded "air bridge" from the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro river valley, Peru surpassed Colombia in 2012 as the world's No. 1 cocaine exporter. Police say the airborne flow accounts for roughly half of its production, with each planeload worth at least \$7.2 million overseas.

The trafficking got so brazen that congress voted unanimously in August to authorize shooting down the single-engine planes.

But the government scrapped plans to buy the



Peruvian counternarcotics police blast a hole in a clandestine airstrip used by cocaine traffickers in Ciudad Constitucion, Peru. President Ollanta Humala points to the cratering of these landing strips more than 550 times as part of the country's success against the drug trade. Traffickers quickly fill the holes using local labor, police say.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

required state-of-the-art radar, a \$71 million expenditure it announced last November, and President Ollanta Humala has just eight months left in office and an approval rating below 15 percent.

The "narco planes" have touched down just minutes by air from military bases in the nearly road-less region known by its Spanish acronym as the VRAEM.

About four times a day, they drop onto dirt airstrips, deliver cash and pick up

more than 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of partially refined cocaine, police say. The AP obtained video of two such transactions taken by drug police who said they were too outgunned by assault rifle-wielding sentinels to intervene.

Wilson Barrantes, a retired army general who has long complained about military drug corruption, said giving the armed forces control of the cocaine-producing valley is "like putting four street dogs to guard a

plate of beefsteak."

One accused narco-pilot interviewed by the AP said some local military commanders charge \$10,000 per flight to let cocaine commerce go unhindered. The AP renewed requests Wednesday to discuss the accusations with Peru's defense minister and joint armed forces command. It also contacted the president's office. None immediately responded.

The board chairman of the anti-corruption nonprofit

group Transparency International, Jose Ugaz, said he hoped AP's investigation would spur debate in the presidential campaign. Sadly, the Peruvian lawyer said, military drug corruption is an open secret in the country.

"It's been going on for some time but unfortunately no one has done anything."

Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Vega, who runs counterinsurgency efforts in the region, told the AP that he knew of no military officials under investigation.

"Corruption exists, but we are always looking out for it," he said.

"If we know of anyone involved, we'll throw the book at them."

Humala, a former army lieutenant colonel, said on taking office in 2011 that combatting illicit drugs was a priority. His government has destroyed record amounts of coca leaf.

But that's not enough, says Sonia Medina, the public prosecutor for illicit drugs. Trafficking and related corruption in the police, military, courts and criminal justice system have gone "from bad to worse" on Humala's watch, she said. "What we are doing in counter-narcotics is completely distorted, incoherent and inert." □

Honduras seizes businesses of prominent family accused in US

FREDDY CUEVAS
Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) —

The Honduran government on Wednesday seized 19 businesses belonging to Grupo Continental and five homes of company vice president Jaime Rosenthal and two other relatives accused by the United States of money laundering.

The government said in a statement that it wants to prevent the transfer of assets during the investigation.

Hundreds of police, soldiers, judges and prosecutors participated in the actions in five provinces across Honduras.

On Oct. 7, the U.S. Treasury



In this 2005 photo, businessman and former Honduran presidential candidate Jaime Rosenthal smiles in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

(AP Photo)

Department announced that Rosenthal, his son Yani Rosenthal and nephew Yankel Rosenthal along with the varied businesses

of Grupo Continental had been designated under the Kingpin Act. U.S. prosecutors accuse them of laundering money for Cen-

tral American drug traffickers. The Rosenthals have denied the allegations. Yankel Rosenthal was arrested in Miami and this week agreed to be transferred to New York where the indictment was issued. The government is also forcing the liquidation of the family's Banco Continental. On Wednesday, furious clients demanded their savings and blocked some streets. "I'm outraged," said Joaquin Velasquez, a civil engineer. "Everything I've made professionally is in this bank ... I don't know what to do."

He did not know when he would receive his savings, who would give them to him, whether they would

come via electronic transfer or check or whether they would arrive in one lump sum or various payments.

Evasico Asencio, who the government put in charge of liquidating the bank with some 220,000 clients, said, "All of the funds are guaranteed and everyone will be paid everything."

Ethel Deras, president of the National Banking and Insurance Commission, said the return of customers' deposits would be done alphabetically and each would be able to withdraw up to \$9,600 from four other banks.

The returns would begin this week with the smallest depositors, she said. □



Paseo Herencia Mall Celebrates Colorful "Dia de la Raza"



PASEO MALL - Paseo Herencia Shopping Center was proud to welcome the Consul General of Venezuela, Alirio Mendoza and his vice consuls as special guests as the mall presented the native arts of one of the many native peoples of their country. The varied and entertaining program paid tribute to their music, dance and handicrafts. A dance group from the

Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Cooperation called "Curazon di Venezuela," (Heart of Venezuela) performed along with noted Venezuelan violinist Angela Flores. October 12 is a landmark occasion for the New World, the birthday of Christopher Columbus, which is observed in various ways. Historians, however, have re-examined the dis-



covery of the continents of the western hemisphere and their colonization with a more realistic analysis of the treatment and fate of the indigenous people who were displaced by the settlement of these lands. The idea of replacing Columbus Day by celebrating the indigenous people of North America first arose in 1977 from the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, sponsored by the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Continued on page 16



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill and Emerald Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

tokens of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 and 35-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Stanley and Mrs. Kim Golembewski of Concord, North Carolina, Mr. John and Mrs. Louise Verdino of Ellenville, New York, Mr. John and Mrs. Cathy Jung from Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

and Mr. Alfred and Mrs. Mary Schreck of Albertson, New York. All of the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, the Casinos, and just about everything else! They say Aruba feels

like a second home where the people are like family to them, and the Divi Phoenix is truly their 'home-away-from-home.' The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel

and Ms. Nadia Dabboussi representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril Culley and Mr. Daniel Ras representing the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort. □



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Kukoo Kunuku Serves Up Fun and Laughter in Aruba!

PALM BEACH - Born out of the dreams of a couple who escaped south for the winter and never left, Kukoo Kunuku is the place on Aruba to find great food and make fun memories with the people around you. Kukoo Kunuku offers party bus tours and other adventures that take guests on a whirlwind tour of some of Aruba's best sites as well as fun places where they can relax and grab a drink. Kukoo Kunuku is staffed by an eclectic mix of val-

ued employees as diverse and interesting as Aruba itself. Their motto speaks for itself and is echoed by the experiences of taking a tour with them-"The perfect way for the old and the reckless and the young and the restless to spend an evening in Paradise." Aruba's latest dinner under the stars location, Casibari Grill, is now featured on the Kukoo Kunuku Dinner and Barhopping Tour. Kukoo Kunuku guests can now enjoy a great local BBQ meal with all the trimmings



before embarking on a fun barhopping and night-life adventure. The newly renovated Casibari, is now open to the public seven days a week serving delicious drinks and an exciting array of menu options. It is full of character with an atmosphere that can't be

beat anywhere else on the island! Take the opportunity to dance, drink, talk, and enjoy the music at Casibari Grill when you stop by on a Kukoo Kunuku tour the next time you are in Aruba. More information and reviews of Kukoo Kunuku

can be found on TripAdvisor- it comes highly recommended from travelers all around the world! For more information or to make reservations, please contact the Kukoo Kunuku at (297) 586-2010 or visit the website www.kukookunuku.com!

Continued from page 13

Since then, this date has become for many nations a homage to their struggle to maintain their identity and culture.

"Día de la Raza," as it is called in most Latin American countries, has become "International Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People," prompted by the revelation that upon discovering these populated lands, it was Columbus' immediate desire to subjugate and enslave Native Americans who welcomed him so hospitably, as noted in his very own writings. The audience was treated



to a sampling of typical desserts such as quesillo, dulce di papaya, tres leches and rice pudding, distributed by ladies wearing the colorful appliqué work of their country. It was a rousing and enlightening evening for audience members originat-



ing from various nations of the New World. Paseo Herencia Marketing and Community Relations Manager Candy Rasmijn expressed their deep gratitude to the Venezuelan

Consulate on Aruba and the Institute for Culture and Cooperation for their enthusiasm for this project and the delightful program they presented on Saturday evening. □



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In this April 30, 2012 file photo, Khloe Kardashian Odom and Lamar Odom from the show "Keeping Up With The Kardashians" attend an E! Network upfront event in New York.

Associated Press

Lamar Odom's spiral leaves ex-NBA star fighting for his life

GREG BEACHAM
SALLY HO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Lamar Odom didn't last long at the glittering intersection of championship success and Hollywood celebrity. Cut loose by his beloved Los Angeles Lakers, followed everywhere by reality television crews, the humble kid from Queens who married into the Kardashian clan saw his life spiral out of control, and so did everyone else. Khloe Kardashian tried to hide his addictions, then told the world she couldn't save him. The two-time NBA champion landed on Skid Row, a regular tabloid target.

Then he seemed to drop out altogether before he was found unresponsive in a brothel and hospitalized, bringing his estranged wife, his former teammates and the world's attention back to his side Wednesday.

Continued on page 19



Blue Jays stun Rangers in wild Game 5

Page 20

Toronto Blue Jays Jose Bautista celebrates with teammate Ryan Goins after hitting a three-run home run during the seventh inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 in Toronto. The Toronto Blues Jays beat the Texas Rangers 6-3.

Associated Press

Mcllroy starts a new season before another season is over

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NAPA, California (AP) —

Rory Mcllroy is starting a new season on the PGA Tour before finishing his other season on the European Tour.

Such is the world of a golfer who travels all over it.

A recent study conducted by one of Mcllroy's sponsors revealed that over the last 12 months, he has spent 350 hours in the air, 287 nights in a hotel and was in 118 airports. And that's just the travel. He also walked 932 miles on golf courses.

"That's the sort of travel that you have to do to be a worldwide player," Mcllroy said Wednesday. "It's crazy numbers. I definitely see a day where those numbers are going to drop. No way I could sustain that for the rest of my career. Whenever that day is I'm not sure, but for now, that's the life I live."

"I'm enjoying it, so I'll do it for a while."

Mcllroy is the star attraction at the Frys.com Open, which starts Thursday at Silverado to kick off a new season on the PGA Tour. And to think it has been all of 17 days since Jordan Spieth ended the previous season as the FedEx Cup champion.

Mcllroy is at Silverado because he was among eight



Rory Mcllroy attempts birdie with a chip up to the 18th green during the third round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club, Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

players who took part in an exhibition event in Turkey three years ago that was held the same week as this stop on the PGA Tour. They agreed to play the Frys.com Open once over the next three years.

Justin Rose, Charl Schwartzel and Webb Simpson also are at Silverado, and Tiger Woods was supposed to join them until he recently had a second back surgery. The other three - Lee Westwood, Matt Kuchar and Hunter Mahan - played last year. Mahan is the only one who returned.

It only adds to Mcllroy's busy end of the year, no matter the tour or the season.

After a week off, he is headed to Turkey, Shanghai and Dubai to finish off

the Race to Dubai that he currently leads on the European Tour.

"I feel like I'm in the middle of a nice little run to the end of the year," Mcllroy said. "I guess for a lot of guys, even the guys that played a full PGA Tour schedule last season and then played the Presidents Cup and they're coming here, it's a lot of golf. But as I said, I haven't played as much as those guys, so I'm happy to be playing and happy to play quite a bit until the end of the year."

In some respects, Mcllroy started another "new" season in August.

He injured his ankle playing football the first weekend in July and wound up missing two months, including his British Open title defense

at St. Andrew, before returning at the PGA Championship. He has tried to pace himself since then to make sure the ankle is fully healed.

"I guess coming back at the PGA for me was a start of a new season, anyway, so it's been like two mini-seasons a little bit," he said. This is the third straight year of the tour's wraparound season - October to September - and the Frys.com Open has managed to attract a stronger field each year. It helps having Mcllroy and Rose at Silverado, though the field includes players who were not part of the Turkey deal. Hideki Matsuyama, Chris Kirk and Steven Bowditch came straight over from the Presidents Cup. Bowditch described his offseason as a "10-hour flight from Korea." Kirk could barely make it from the practice range to the tee box without players stopping to congratulate him for his 15-foot birdie putt that was the most significant in another U.S. victory in the Presidents. It felt as if he had just won a tournament.

It's easy for Mcllroy to feel as though it has been a long time since he won, though the year hasn't been a total loss. He has three victories - the Dubai Desert Classic, Match Play

Championship and Wells Fargo Championship - and still was No. 1 in the world until three weeks ago.

Not winning the three majors he played made it feel like a lost year, though Mcllroy isn't looking back.

"I'm focused on going forward and trying to finish this season well," Mcllroy said. "I want to try and win the Race to Dubai over in Europe. I'm still leading that. I have three tournaments left to try and clinch that." He also has the best chance to end the year where he started - at No. 1 in the world.

Spieth is now at the top after his win at the Tour Championship three weeks ago, though it's so close that Jason Day will return to No. 1 next week. Mcllroy has more tournaments left, including three strong fields in Asia.

Spieth and Day have inspired Mcllroy more than they have motivated him.

"I'm ready to get back into play and to compete again," he said. "Since I've come back from the injury I've had a couple good finishes, but not really been in contention. So I want to get back in contention, have chances to win golf tournaments. That's really my focus until the end of the year. I've four opportunities to do that." □

Eugenie Bouchard suing USTA over slip-fall at U.S. Open

MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis star Eugenie Bouchard filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the United States Tennis Association that alleges the sport's national governing body was negligent, leaving her to slip and fall in a locker room



Eugenie Bouchard of Canada covers her face with a towel as she leaves the court after retiring from her first round match against Andrea Petkovic of Germany at the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, Monday, Oct. 5, 2015.

Associated Press

during the U.S. Open.

Bouchard, who was a runner-up at Wimbledon last year, has suffered severe pain and economic loss after the Sept. 4 incident, she said in the federal lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn that seeks unspecified monetary damages.

The 21-year-old Bouchard had just won a match against Dominika Cibulkova when she returned to the locker room at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens shortly after 10 p.m. Minutes later, she slipped and fell on the tile floor of a physiotherapy room that is inside the locker room, slamming her

head against the ground. The fall left Bouchard with a concussion and "serious head injury." She later withdrew from the U.S. Open and tournaments in China and Japan.

"Ms. Bouchard entered the physiotherapy room of the women's locker room when she was caused to slip and fall by a slippery, foreign and dangerous substance on the floor," the suit says. The substance was not identified in court papers.

The Canadian player, who was once ranked No. 5, contends her injuries "were caused solely by the reason of carelessness, negligence, wanton and willful

disregard on the part of Defendant USTA." She claims the organization didn't keep the locker room in a "safe and suitable condition" because the organization failed to maintain, clean and repair the floor, which led to her fall.

Bouchard said her world ranking has dropped at least 13 spots since the incident last month and believes it is likely to continue to decline.

Chris Widmaier, a spokesman for the United States Tennis Association, declined comment, saying the organization had a longstanding policy of not discussing ongoing litigation. □



Lamar Odom

Continued from page 17

Hospital authorities would not comment on the condition of the 35-year-old former NBA forward, but the Rev. Jesse Jackson was among his visitors. Jackson said Odom was on life support and improving.

"Apparently from what the doctor said, he was much better off today than yesterday. He at least has some responsiveness now," Jackson said. "He's got tubes in him now but we felt inspired by his presence."

"We're just holding hands and hoping he can bounce back," Jackson added.

Odom, who was embraced by teammates and television fans alike for his Everyman approach to fame, was found face down and alone Tuesday after spending four days at the Love Ranch, a legal Nevada brothel.

Odom started "throwing up all kinds of stuff" after a 911 operator told them to turn him on his side, Love Ranch owner Dennis Hof told The Associated Press in a phone interview. Odom had "spent time socializing with some of my girls," but wasn't seen taking any illegal drugs, Hof said. Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said at a news conference that a brothel employee who called 911 reported Odom did cocaine Saturday and had taken up to 10 tabs of a sexual performance enhancer over the past three days. She said he was found unresponsive with blood coming from his nose and mouth.

Wehrly earlier said investigators were seeking a blood sample to determine if Odom overdosed on drugs or alcohol.

Odom spent most of his 14-year NBA career in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers, becoming a fan favorite before he sought even more fame with the Kardashians.

His one-month courtship of Khloe before their huge 2009 wedding was taped

for the E! network, and Odom appeared on nearly two dozen episodes of "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" as well as other family spinoffs, including his own "Khloe & Lamar" show in 2011 and 2012.

Khloe Kardashian called him "Lam-Lam" and worried openly about him on the show. Even after they split up in 2013, cameras recorded her calling him and checking on his welfare. People always seemed to root for Odom, whose prematurely weathered face wore the impact of his personal tragedies in a friendly way. And news of his hospitalization brought an outpouring of dismay and encouragement from his friends and family.

Kobe Bryant joined Kardashian and some of Odom's childhood friends at his bedside after a Tuesday night Lakers game in Las Vegas.

"Lamar Odom is one of the greatest people I've ever known," said Derek Fisher, the New York Knicks coach and Odom's longtime teammate with the Lakers. "I don't view him through the prism of choices that he's made ... I'm obviously hoping that he can pull through this, and that in some fortunate way this becomes the beginning of a different ending." Even his estranged father, Joe Odom, was there at the hospital, according to his grandmother, Florence Odom, who told the AP Wednesday that Lamar was "in God's hands."

Authorities were called to the brothel in Crystal, Nevada, about 3:15 p.m. Tuesday. The 6-foot-10 Odom was too tall for an available helicopter, so he was driven by ambulance to Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center in Las Vegas.

Hof told the AP that his staff had picked up Odom from a home in Las Vegas on Saturday, and he seemed "happy, he was sleeping every night."

"He largely kept to himself, and at no time did he engage in any drug use in the presence of anyone in the house. He did drink alcohol from our bar, and was taking some herbal sexual

enhancement capsules," Hof's statement said.

Odom emerged as one of the most promising basketball talents of his generation after a difficult childhood in Queens, where his mother died of cancer when he was 12 and his estranged father was addicted to heroin. Drugs and crime were rampant in his South Jamaica neighborhood, and he never forgot where he came from, writing tributes to his mother and grandmother on his sneakers before games.

Tall enough to play center and skilled enough to be a playmaking guard, the rangy kid with a beautiful shot and exceptional ball-handling skills drew comparisons to Magic Johnson when he played on a traveling youth team alongside Ron Artest, his future Lakers teammate. □



In this Dec. 8, 2012, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers' Lamar Odom brings the ball up in an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Hornets rout Clippers 113-71 in 2nd preseason game in China

JUSTIN BERGMAN

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Al Jefferson scored 17 points and Nicolas Batum added 14 with 10 rebounds to lead the Charlotte Hornets over the Los Angeles Clippers 113-71 Wednesday in the second preseason NBA game between the teams in China.

The Hornets went on a 36-8 run after halftime and took a 36-point lead with 8:26 remaining.

Charlotte also won the first game between the teams in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Sunday and improved to 4-0 in the preseason. The Clippers fell to 1-3.

Clippers point guard Chris Paul played with two fingers taped together on his non-shooting left hand after fracturing his index finger during a scrimmage on Saturday.

Paul still led the Clippers with 17 points, while Blake Griffin added 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Jeremy Lin added 13 points

for the Hornets, who shot nearly 45 percent from the field and went 14-of-25 from 3-point range.

Lin, whose parents are from Taiwan and grandparents were born and raised in mainland China, got a huge ovation from the crowd when the starting lineups were announced and an even bigger cheer when he addressed the crowd in Mandarin before tip-off.

For the first quarter, the Shanghai crowd also got a taste of Linsanity.

Playing with his hair spiked in a Mo-hawk, Lin scored the first basket of the game — a 3-pointer — about one minute into the game. He then hit a fadeaway jumper, landing on his back on the court, followed by a layup and another 3-pointer in the next three minutes, accounting for all of the Hornets' first 10 points.

"I was in the zone after the first 3-pointer went in, I felt all the shots would go in," Lin said. "It was such a fun trip. I got to show my teammates China, my culture.

. And we're excited to go home and get some rest." Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers said his team looked frustrated from the first quarter when they began missing easy shots and it only worsened after halftime. The Clippers went a miserable 4-for-23 from 3-point range in the game and finished with 22 turnovers.

Paul Pierce missed all five of his shots — including three 3-pointers — in 15 minutes and starting center DeAndre Jordan finished with just three points and four rebounds in 25 minutes.

Still, as poorly as his team played, Rivers said the China trip was positive from a bonding standpoint.

"Our guys have been going out to different restaurants together and just enjoying each other," he said. "The one thing about going abroad for all teams, Charlotte as well, is I think it allows you to team-build sooner than if you were at home. So mission accomplished." □

Blue Jays beat Rangers 6-3 to win wild Game 5

IAN HARRISON

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO (AP) -- The Toronto Blue Jays clinched their first trip to the American League Championship Series since 1993, overcoming one of the most bizarre plays in playoff history when Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer after three Texas Rangers errors for a 6-3 victory Wednesday in the deciding Game 5 of the Division Series.

The Blue Jays became the third team to win a best-of-five series after losing the first two games at home. They play the winner of Game 5 between Houston and Kansas City later Wednesday. Game 1 of the ALCS is Friday night. Bautista's homer capped an event-filled, 53-minute seventh inning that took a turn when Toronto catcher Russell Martin's throw back to the pitcher deflected off batter Shin-Soo Choo and allowed the tiebreaking to score.

"It's the most emotionally charged game that I've ever played," Bautista said. The Blue Jays filed a protest after an umpire review ruled Rougned Odor was allowed to cross home plate. Toronto fans pelted the field with debris during the 18-minute delay. The Rangers started the bottom half by making three straight errors, and Toronto rallied. Benches cleared twice in the Blue Jays' half of the inning. Roberto Osuna got the final five outs for his first postseason save.

Osuna turned toward the outfield after striking out Wil Venable, looked to the sky and was mobbed by his teammates as jubilant fans rocked the Rogers Centre. After Edwin Encarnacion tied it 2-all with a second-deck drive off tough-luck loser Cole Hamels in the sixth, Odor led off the seventh with a single and went to third on a sacrifice and groundout. With Choo up, Martin's throw back to reliever Aaron Sanchez deflected off Choo and dribbled toward



Toronto Blue Jays' Roberto Osuna, center right, and catcher Dioner Navarro embrace as the Blue Jays celebrate on the field after winning Game 5 of baseball's American League Division Series against the Texas Rangers, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, in Toronto.

Associated Press

third base.

Home plate umpire Dale Scott initially ruled it a dead ball but, after Rangers manager Jeff Banister questioned the call, the umpires huddled and Odor was sent home.

"I just caught the ball and threw it back very casually and it hit his bat and then next thing you know run scores. It's never happened in my life before," Martin said. "It's just one of those moments, and it created an opportunity for us to do something special." Fans littered the field with objects during the delay as umpires sorted out a play that is certain to rank up there with Derek Jeter's Jeffrey Maier homer or Reggie Jackson's hip block of a throw as one of the craziest in the postseason.

According to rule Major League Baseball rule 6.03(a)(3), the batter is not to be charged with interfering with the catcher if the batter is still in the batter's box and doesn't make a movement to block or dis-

rupt the throw.

This type of play is not subject to manager's review but Scott, the crew chief, after discussing the ruling with Blue Jays manager John Gibbons, called an umpire's review. After a delay of 2 minutes, 32 seconds, the play stood and fans continued to throw objects on the field.

The Blue Jays filed a protest. No need for the paperwork, though.

The Rangers made three consecutive errors to start the bottom half, with Martin reaching on a fielding error by Elvis Andrus to start it off. Kevin Pillar followed with a grounder to first but Martin was safe at second on an errant throw by Mitch Moreland.

After Dalton Pompey pinch ran for Martin, Ryan Goins followed with a sacrifice bunt. Adrian Beltre fielded the ball and threw to third, but Andrus dropped the ball for his second error of the inning, loading the bases for Ben Revere.

Revere grounded into a fielder's choice, with Moreland throwing Pompey out at the plate.

After Sam Dyson relieved Hamels, Josh Donaldson tied it at 3 with a flare just beyond the reach of Odor at second, but Revere was forced out.

Bautista followed with a towering drive into the second deck, glaring at Dyson as he stood at home plate to admire his go-ahead drive, enthusiastically flipping his bat away.

With some fans continuing to litter the field, Edwin Encarnacion turned to face the crowd and appealed for calm, lifting his bat and helmet over his head. Dyson took exception and walked over to confront Encarnacion, leading to both dugouts and both bullpens emptying.

During the scrum that was quickly dissolved, 20 Toronto police officers stood across the outfield, while others stood along the foul lines. Police later stood on

the roof of the Rangers' first base dugout before the bottom of the ninth.

Encarnacion and Chris Colabello both singled when play resumed, but the bat-around inning ended when Troy Tulowitzki fouled out. Dyson made contact with Tulowitzki as he walked off, leading to another benches-clearing confrontation, with catcher Chris Gimenez shoving Tulowitzki before the scrum was broken up.

Osuna fanned Josh Hamilton and Andrus to finish the eighth, stranding runners at first and second.

Texas opened the scoring in the first when Delino DeShields scored on a fielder's choice by Prince Fielder. Choo homered off Marcus Stroman in the third to make it 2-0.

Choo's homer was the first for the Rangers since Odor connected off David Price in the seventh inning of Game 1.

Toronto cut the deficit in half in the third on Bautista's two-out double. □

Djokovic wins 13th straight match to open Shanghai

JUSTIN BERGMAN
Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Novak Djokovic extended his winning streak to 13 straight matches with a swift 6-2, 6-1 win over Martin Klizan in the second round of the Shanghai Masters on Wednesday.

Rafael Nadal also advanced to the third round, although in far more difficult fashion. The eighth-seeded Spanish player escaped with a 7-5, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4) win over Ivo Karlovic of Croatia in two hours, 43 minutes.

Djokovic is coming off his sixth China Open title last week, where he only lost 18 games in the entire tournament — the most dominant title run of his career.

He picked up right where he left off in Shanghai, fending off the only break point he faced against Klizan to win in 63 minutes.

Djokovic is aiming for his ninth title of the year and his third at the Shanghai Masters.

"Considering the fact that I've won so many matches this year and tournaments, probably the best season of my life definitely, anywhere I go I'm confident," he said. "Especially towards the end of the season, knowing that back in the previous years I've played consistently well and was very successful in the last couple months of the season."

Nadal, by comparison, is struggling through one of the most challenging years of his career. He hasn't won a Grand Slam title for the first time since 2004 and his ranking has dipped to No. 7.

He's also coming off a rather one-sided defeat to Djokovic in the China

Open final on Sunday, prior to which Nadal admitted that his Serbian rival was "not in my league" at the moment.

Still, Nadal sounded upbeat after maintaining his composure against the heavy-serving Karlovic, who had 24 aces, and securing a close victory.

"To win 7-6 in the third is very important victory for me, especially because I believe in the last tiebreak I did not lose one point with my serve," he said. "That's because I was on self-control again of my emotions. That's the most important thing for me today."

Nadal faces another big server, Milos Raonic, in the third round on Thursday, while Djokovic plays 15th-seeded Feliciano Lopez of Spain.

In other matches, Kei Nishikori overcame a stiff challenge from an emotional Nick Kyrgios to advance with a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

After winning the first set in 30 minutes, Kyrgios began to unravel at the end of the second set when he smacked a ball in frustration toward the baseline, causing a line judge to bend to avoid being hit.

The Australian was assessed a code violation and dropped his serve at love, losing the set. Kyrgios then saved three match points in the third set before Nishikori finally closed it out. Kyrgios was already fined \$1,500 for an "audible obscenity" in his first-round match in Shanghai. He faces a 28-day suspension from the ATP tour if he reaches \$5,000 in fines before February after being placed on probation for making derogatory comments to Stan Wawrinka

during a match in Montreal in August.

"I didn't think I behaved bad at all out there today," Kyrgios said after Wednesday's loss. "I thought I was good mentally. I showed emotion, but at the same time I played great." Nishikori said he tried to be more patient after struggling with his serve early in the match, winning just one point on his second serve in the opening set.

"I didn't have the best start this match," he said. "My serve wasn't going in, especially in the beginning. I had three double faults in first game."

In other matches, Andy Murray overcame five double faults to defeat Steve Johnson of the United States 6-2, 6-4, and Australia's Bernard Tomic saved eight of nine break points he faced to upset seventh-seeded David Ferrer of Spain 6-4, 6-2.

Tomic said he's feeling increasingly more confident than he was at the start of the year when his ranking dipped into the 70s. He reached No. 20 last month and is aiming to finish close to the top 15 by the end of the season.

"This is my best year," he said. "I'm working much harder. I'm a bit smarter and wiser."

Also, fourth-seeded Wawrinka defeated Viktor Troicki of Serbia 7-6 (3), 6-3; fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic outlasted Jack Sock 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4; No. 13-seeded John Isner of the United States defeated Belgium's David Goffin 6-3, 7-6 (5); and No. 12 Kevin Anderson beat Fabio Fognini 6-3, 7-6 (1). □



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits a return shot while playing against Ivo Karlovic of Croatia during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai, China Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015.

Associated Press

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SAT 2:10 | 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10 | 11:30
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:30 | 6:50 | 9:10

BRIDGE OF SPIES
PG-13
MON-THURS 5:45 | 8:45
FRI 5:45 | 8:45 | 10:45
SAT 2:45 | 5:45 | 8:45 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 5:45 | 8:45

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SAT 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:10

PAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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SAT 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45

KNOCK KNOCK
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MON-THURS 9:15
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SUN & HOL 9:15

THE WALK
PG
MON-FRI 4:15 | 6:55
SAT 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:55
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:55

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40
SAT 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40

SICARIO
R
MON-THURS 9:35
FRI-SAT 9:35 | 12:10
SUN & HOL 9:35

THE MARTIAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50
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Throat's Door

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

The word thyroid comes from the Greek "thura" which means "door," which is what the thyroid looks like. Your thyroid gland is the largest endocrine gland and is situated in the front of the neck. Your thyroid gland secretes iodine- rich hormones thyroxine and triiodothyronine which regulate your metabolism rate; but its effects are felt all over the body.

Thyroid glands that are not functioning optimally produce a myriad of symptoms. Many people experience unexplained cold hands and feet, low body temperature, sensitivity to cold, a feeling of always being chilled, headaches, insomnia, dry skin and hair, puffy eyes, hair loss, brittle nails, joint aches, constipation, mental dullness, fatigue, frequent infections, PMS symptoms, hoarse voice, ringing in the ears, dizziness, depression, fluid retention, anxiety and panic attacks, allergies, asthma, acne, skin hives, loss of libido, and weight gain, which is sometimes uncontrollable. In fact, an insufficiently nourished thyroid might be a major cause of weight problems, especially among women, in the West today.

Research indicates that up to 10 percent of Westerners have a thyroid problem that has most likely gone unrecognized. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms above your doctor could

send you to check your thyroid function through a blood test. Unfortunately, the test results may not be accurate. This is because test "averages" do not show how all

Thyroid tests will not give you an accurate indication of your ideal thyroid hormone level, because they are missing a critical piece of information which is your peak thyroid level when you were young and healthy. Should your thyroid test results indicate that you are in the "normal" range... say 5.5...but when you were younger you would have tested at a 9, then indeed, your thyroid is quite under active for you. At 5.5 you may feel very tired yet your doctor will tell you that your test results are "normal."

You can only truly compare you with you, and not a range of others. It would be ideal if we were tested when we were in our late teens and twenties and our peak levels were recorded at the top-most physical time in our life. Then, as we age, we could test ourselves again to ensure that our hormone levels remain at this peak level.

The second reason that the tests are often inaccurate is because they only show what your thyroid hormone levels are on the day of testing. Your thyroid is a "tricky" organ to both diagnose and treat since its hormone levels fluctuate all the time.



What you eat each day has a tremendous and immediate impact on it, and how much hormone it secretes.

A third reason for their inaccuracy is that the tests do not indicate if your thyroid hormone is actually entering your cells. Your thyroid may be manufacturing plenty of hormone but your cells can become resistant to the hormone and not able to utilize it. This condition is called Wilson's Syndrome. If you have low body temperature and some of the symptoms listed above you could have this condition.

In our clinic we see a lot of hypo or low functioning thyroids. The first solution is to put our patients on their metabolic or blood type food list. Because of today's diet, people will likely never experience outstanding thyroid health, unless they are encouraged to change their eating habits.

Your thyroid can be nourished better with a diet that includes the good

fats (olive oil, pumpkin-seed oil, real, unsalted butter, cod liver oil, and egg yolks) and mineral-rich foods (dark green leafy vegetables, sea salt and ocean veggies). Supplements that help in building a strong thyroid are kelp and selenium.

Most thyroid patients are women and many with low progesterone are often misdiagnosed as thyroid deficiency. Thyroid and sex hormones each affect the other. We often attend women with bulging eyes, racing heartbeat, and a swollen neck by naturally stimulating their progesterone production. Adding zinc to your daily supplement routine is important for sexual health.

Irregular periods, often leading to needless hysterectomies, are unfortunate common aspects of hypothyroidism; and breast disease. Too little thyroid production may cause increased prolactin levels and persistent estrogen stimulation.

Prolactin is the hormone that stimulates the production of breast milk. Levels rise normally during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Abnormal changes in prolactin production can slow or stop your menstruation and you may find that you are producing milk from your breasts when you are not pregnant.

Get The Point! Your thyroid may not be working at its optimum if you are experiencing some of the symptoms mentioned above. If the guardian in your throat isn't handling

the job anymore, maybe it's time for a change of guard. Take control of your health by opening the door to diet and lifestyle changes. Don't settle for "averages." We are all different; we offer specialized hormone and other testing. Let us prepare a personal plan to fortify your health.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com "Prescriptions from Paradise" - International Book Award Winner, Alternative Health - ta optenible na Aruba na Viana Healing Center, Tur libreria, Gift shops y centro nan di salud di calidad. tambe ta disponibel den forma do print y pa Kindle download pa nos amigo nan pa fo di Aruba na www.amazon.com Pa anuncio nan acerca di mas evento nan y firmamento di buki check , check corant nan local, radio y television tambe como riba www.vianaheal.com y join e discusion riba nos Facebook pagina: www.facebook.com/prescriptionsfromparadise

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Toyota aims to nearly eliminate gasoline cars by 2050

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota, under ambitious environmental targets, is aiming to sell hardly any regular gasoline vehicles by 2050, only hybrids and fuel cells, to radically reduce emissions. The automaker promised to involve governments, affiliated companies and other "stakeholders" in its push to reduce average emissions from Toyota cars by 90 percent by about 2050, compared with 2010 levels.

Electric cars weren't part of their vision, outlined by top Toyota Motor Corp. officials at a Tokyo museum on Wednesday, striking a contrast with rivals such as Nissan Motor Co., which has banked on that zero-emissions technology.

Toyota's commitments come at a time when the auto industry has been shaken by a scandal at Germany's Volkswagen AG, in which it admitted it cheated on diesel emissions tests covering millions of cars.

Toyota projected its annual sales of fuel cell vehicles will reach more than 30,000 by about 2020, which is 10 times its projected figure

for 2017.

Fuel cells run on hydrogen and are zero-emissions. Toyota's Mirai fuel cell went on sale late last year. Toyota has received 1,500 orders for the Mirai in Japan, and it just went on

Hybrids switch back and forth between a gasoline engine and an electric motor to deliver an efficient ride.

The Toyota Prius, which went on sale in 1997, is the top-selling hybrid, with

a long time," Senior Managing Officer Kiyotaka Ise told reporters. "But for an automaker to envision all combustion engines as gone is pretty extraordinary."

Ise acknowledged some

of global warming and environmental destruction made a move toward a hydrogen-based society a necessity.

Experts agree more has to be done to curtail global warming and pollution, and nations are increasingly tightening emissions standards.

But they are divided on whether all gasoline engines will disappear, or they'll stay on, thanks to greener internal combustion engines, as well as the arrival of clean diesel technology.

Tatsuo Yoshida, senior analyst at Barclays Securities Japan in Tokyo, said Toyota's goals weren't far-fetched.

"The internal combustion engine is developing and metamorphosing into hybrids," he said. "Toyota has been working on this technology for a long time. When officials speak out like this, it means they are 120 percent confident this is their scenario."

As part of its environmental vision, Toyota also promised to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from production lines during manufacturing in 2030 to about a third of 2001 levels. □



In this June 26, 2014 photo, visitors look at Toyota Motor Corp.'s new fuel cell vehicle (FCV) on display at a Toyota showroom in Tokyo.

Associated Press

sale in the U.S. and Europe. Annual sales of hybrid vehicles will reach 1.5 million and by 2020 Toyota would have sold 15 million hybrids, nearly twice what it has sold so far around the world, it said.

about 4 million sold globally so far. Toyota is promising to develop a hybrid version in every category, including usually gas-guzzling sport-utility vehicles, as well as luxury models.

"You may think 35 years is

gasoline engine cars would remain in less developed markets, but only in small numbers.

He and other Toyota officials insisted on the inevitability of their overall vision, stressing that the problems

Tesla's autopilot lets cars drive, change lanes themselves

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Electric car maker Tesla Motors is leapfrogging competitors with a new autopilot system that lets cars change lanes by themselves.

Like other semi-autonomous systems already available from Mercedes, Audi and Volvo, Tesla's system automatically keeps the car within its lane and maintains a certain distance from the car in front, both at highway speeds and on city streets. It can find a parking spot and parallel park itself. It also uses cameras and sensors to warn drivers about potential side impacts.

But analysts say the lane-

changing feature is an industry first. Tesla CEO Elon Musk said the system is also unique because it will constantly collect data from actual drivers and improve itself. The system will note, for example, how quickly drivers can safely navigate a particular bend in the road or where stop signs are located.

"I think this is going to be quite a profound experience for people," Musk said Wednesday in a conference call with media. "It will change people's perception of the future quite drastically."

Musk also added a word of caution: Drivers need to keep their hands on the wheel, and the autopilot

system will chime to remind them if they don't. Drivers — not Tesla — will be held liable if there's a crash, Musk said.

"We're being especially cautious at this early stage, so we're advising drivers to keep their hands on the wheel just in case," he said. "The software is very new."

Musk said fully autonomous, hands-free driving is still at least three years away from a technical standpoint, although it will probably take regulators longer than that to allow it. The autopilot update will be added to around 60,000 vehicles worldwide, including Model S sedans made after September 2014 and Model X SUVs. Owners will



In this Sept. 29, 2015 file photo, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motors Inc., introduces the Model X car at the company's headquarters in Fremont, Calif.

Associated Press

get the system through a software update starting Wednesday evening in North America. Owners in Europe and Asia will get the software update in about a week. People with Model S sedans that were made earlier don't have the required sensors and won't be able to add them retroactively, Musk said.

Only owners who paid

the \$2,500 charge for the full autopilot system will be able to activate all of the autopilot features, but Musk said the side-impact warning is a safety feature and will be available to everyone. For the next update, Musk said, Tesla is working on having the car drive itself in and out of garages when it's summoned by the owner.

Financial services startup Square files \$275M IPO papers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Square, the financial-services startup that helps small businesses process credit card payments, is planning to go public.

The six-year-old company is known for its white, cube-shaped card readers that plug into smartphones and tablet computers, turning them into electronic sales terminals. It's also known in the tech industry for being founded and led by Jack Dorsey, 38, who was separately named CEO of the social networking service Twitter last week.

Dorsey, who owns 24.4 percent of Square, co-founded Twitter in 2006 and has said he'll continue to run both companies.

Square filed regulatory papers on Tuesday for an initial public stock offering valued at up to \$275 million, although that figure could change. While some larger tech startups have recently delayed going public, Square's filing has been expected and records show the company previously filed a confidential declaration of its plans over the summer.

San Francisco-based Square says it had \$850 million in revenue last year. Revenue for the first half of this year was \$560.6 million, an increase of 51 percent over the same period last year.

But the company had a net loss of \$154.1 million in 2014, and a loss of \$77.6 million for the first half of 2015; overall, it's piled up an accumulated deficit of almost a half billion dollars since its inception. It warned that it may continue to generate losses as it invests to expand the business. Square also warned that a major customer, Starbucks, is planning to stop using its service sometime before the third quarter of 2016.

Square has added new services in an effort to diversify its business over recent years. The company provides financing to small businesses and a payment service known as Square Cash that lets individuals and businesses transfer funds to each other. It also operates Caviar, a food delivery service for restaurants. □

US stockpiles unchanged in August; sales fall

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. businesses kept their stockpiles unchanged and registered lower sales in August, numbers that could weigh on third-quarter economic growth.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that business inventories were flat from July. Sales slid 0.6 percent, the biggest drop since a 2.3 percent fall in January. August

sales were down 3.1 percent from a year earlier, and inventories were up 2.4 percent from August 2014. Firms' caution in building inventory could be a drag on economic growth in the July-September quarter. Economists are expecting growth to slow in the second half of the year from the robust 3.9 percent annual growth rate recorded from April through June.

Commerce reported earlier in the day that retail

sales rose just 0.1 percent in September, held down by plummeting gasoline prices and a strong dollar that made imported goods cheaper.

An economic slowdown in China has clouded the global business outlook, driving down prices of commodities and rattling financial markets. The Federal Reserve cited weakness in the global economy when it decided last month to delay a long-an-

anticipated increase in short-term interest rates, which it has kept near zero since December 2008. The International Monetary Fund has urged the Fed to delay a rate hike until next year. Worried about the prospects for emerging market economies, investors have flocked to the U.S. dollar, driving up the American currency and putting U.S. exporters at a price disadvantage in foreign markets. □

Wall Street dips on Wal-Mart, tepid reports

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Weak

earnings guidance from Wal-Mart and a couple of tepid reports on the economy pushed stocks lower on Wednesday.

Wal-Mart logged its biggest one-day decline in almost three decades after the retailer stunned investors with an announcement that it expects its profit to fall as it works to fend off intensifying competition. JPMorgan led financial stocks lower after the lender's third-quarter earnings fell short of analysts' expectations.

A rally for stocks has stalled this week as worries about weakening global growth have resurfaced. A Federal Reserve report on Wednesday showed that factory output was sluggish in the late summer, in part because of the strong dollar. A separate report on retail sales indicated that Americans are still spending cautiously.

After a sharp summer sell-off in stocks that was followed by an early October rebound, investors are split as to what comes next for the market. Some are expecting a strong fourth quarter, while others think that there could be more selling to come.

"I'm pretty much in the bearish camp," said Ken Winans, president of Winans Investments, an investment advisory and research firm. "The fear has come back in."

The Standard & Poor's 500

index closed down 9.45 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,994.24. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 157.14 points, or 0.9 percent, to 16,924.75. The Nasdaq composite fell 13.76 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,782.85. Wal-Mart was the biggest decliner in the S&P 500 and also dragged the Dow

its worst one-day decline since January 1988.

Investors were also assessing earnings reports from three big banks.

Bank of America gained after reporting its results, but JPMorgan and Wells Fargo declined. JPMorgan said late Tuesday that its profit climbed 22 percent,

the year after a big slump in the previous two months on worries about the outlook for global economic growth. Some investors say the declines are overdone, and they're expecting a bounce back in the final quarter of the year.

Worries about the health of China's economy are



Specialist James Sciulli, right, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Weak earnings guidance from Wal-Mart and a couple of tepid reports on the economy pushed stocks lower on Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

lower.

The retailer forecast that sales for its full fiscal year would be flat as the company was hurt by unfavorable currency exchange rates. Wal-Mart had previously forecast sales growth of 1 to 2 percent. For its next fiscal year, it said profit could fall by as much as 12 percent.

The stock slumped \$6.70, or 10 percent, to \$60.03,

but its earnings still fell short of analysts' estimates.

JPMorgan's stock fell \$1.56, or 2.5 percent, to \$59.99. Wells Fargo reported a slight gain in profits for the quarter, but its lending margins fell. Wells Fargo edged down 36 cents, or 0.7 percent, to \$51.50. Bank of America rose 12 cents, or 0.8 percent, to \$15.64. The S&P 500 and the Dow are still lower for

overdone, said Michael Scanlon, managing director and portfolio manager at John Hancock Asset Management.

He's expecting a strong fourth quarter for stocks. "The U.S. is in pretty good shape," said Scanlon. "You can overreact and take a view on every economic data point that we get, but that's probably not in your best interest." □

Wells Fargo's earnings edge up 1 percent to \$5.4 billion

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wells Fargo reported a slight gain in third-quarter earnings on Wednesday, helped by an increase in borrowing from consumers and businesses. The San Francisco-based bank earned \$5.44 billion after payments to preferred shareholders, or

\$1.05 a share, for the three-month period ending in September. That compares with a \$5.41 billion, or \$1.02 a share, in the same period a year earlier.

Wells Fargo reported loan growth across all of its major businesses, from commercial and industrial loans to residential mortgages. Wells is often seen as a

bellwether for the housing market because it is the largest mortgage lender in the U.S. The bank originated \$55 billion in mortgages in the last quarter.

Like JPMorgan and Bank of America, Wells reported a noticeable increase in deposits, which rose 6 percent to \$1.2 trillion.

The profit Wells Fargo is

making from lending is declining, however. Net interest income, or the difference between what Wells Fargo charges to lend and what it pays depositors, fell to 2.96 percent from 3.06 percent in the same period a year earlier. Wells and Bank of America are hurt more by low interest rates than some other banks be-

cause both companies do not have large investment bank and trading businesses.

Wells Fargo did report some credit deterioration in the loans it made to the oil and gas industry, similar to the issues that JPMorgan had, and had to hold onto reserves this quarter instead of releasing them. □

Bank of America profits, earns \$4.1 billion in third quarter

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bank of America, the consumer banking giant, said it swung to a profit in the third quarter on Wednesday, helped by lower borrowing costs and legal expenses.

The bank based in Charlotte, North Carolina, earned \$4.1 billion, or 37 cents a share, for the three-month period ending in September. That compares with a loss of \$470 million, or 4 cents a share, in the same period a year earlier. BofA booked \$6 billion in legal expenses last year to help cover part of a \$16.65 billion legal settlement it reached with the Department of Justice. Revenue fell to \$20.68 billion from \$21.4 billion a year earlier.

BofA's lending business continued to improve in the third quarter. Its costs of lending fell, there were fewer delinquent loans and more customers borrowed money.

While the total amount of BofA's loans was roughly unchanged, the bank continued to dispose of troubled loans left over from the financial crisis and made more loans to businesses and individuals.

In a statement, CEO Brian Moynihan characterized the bank's latest results as "solid."

"The key drivers of our business — deposit taking and lending to both our consumer and corporate clients — moved in the right direction this quarter," Moynihan said.

Earnings at Bank of America's consumer banking division, by far its biggest business, climbed 5 percent. BofA said consumer borrowing increased broadly, a positive sign for the U.S. economy. Credit card issuance, mortgage originations and deposits in brokerage accounts all rose.

The bank's wealth and investment management division, Merrill Lynch, re-



This photo shows a Bank of America sign in Philadelphia. Bank of America Corp. reported quarterly financial results Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

ported lower profits. Transaction revenue fell, which more than offset higher asset management fees.

Like JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America has been on an aggressive cost-cutting campaign, which has included branch closures and layoffs. The bank had

215,193 employees at the end of the third quarter, compared with 229,538 in 2014.

The bank also did better in its legacy assets and servicing division, which is where BofA put the bad mortgages and other toxic assets left over from the fi-

nancial crisis. The division had a loss of \$196 million in the quarter, but that's an improvement from a loss of \$5.11 billion a year ago. The number of mortgages delinquent by 60 days or more fell by nearly half from a year ago to 114,000. □

CSX delivers relatively flat 3Q profit despite volume dip

JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Tight cost controls helped CSX Corp. deliver relatively flat third-quarter profit even though the railroad hauled 3 percent less freight and continued facing weak coal demand.

The Jacksonville, Florida-based company said this week it earned \$507 million, or 52 cents per share. That's roughly in line with last year's \$509 million, or 51 cents per share.

The railroad's profit ex-

ceeded the 50 cents per share analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research, but its \$2.94 billion revenue fell short of the \$3.04 billion revenue Wall Street expected.

CSX affirmed its prediction for 2015 profit growth in the mid-single digits despite the ongoing coal weakness and the overall decline in volume.

The railroad's stock gained 1 percent in after-hours trading to sell for \$28.

CSX Chairman and CEO Michael Ward said the rail-

road worked to control costs and improve service while dealing with market challenges.

"Commodity prices and the strength of the U.S. dollar are challenging many of our markets," Ward said. Coal revenue fell 19 percent in the quarter to \$583 million because demand from U.S. utilities and export markets was weaker than expected.

The stronger U.S. dollar and economic problems elsewhere have hurt coal exports. Domestic coal

demand has shrunk over the past several years because low natural gas prices and concerns about pollution regulations prompted many utilities to switch from coal to gas.

Edward Jones analyst Logan Purk said most of the factors hurting CSX's results are out of the railroad's control, such as the health of the economy, natural gas prices and weather.

"The two items that CSX can really control — pricing and efficiency —

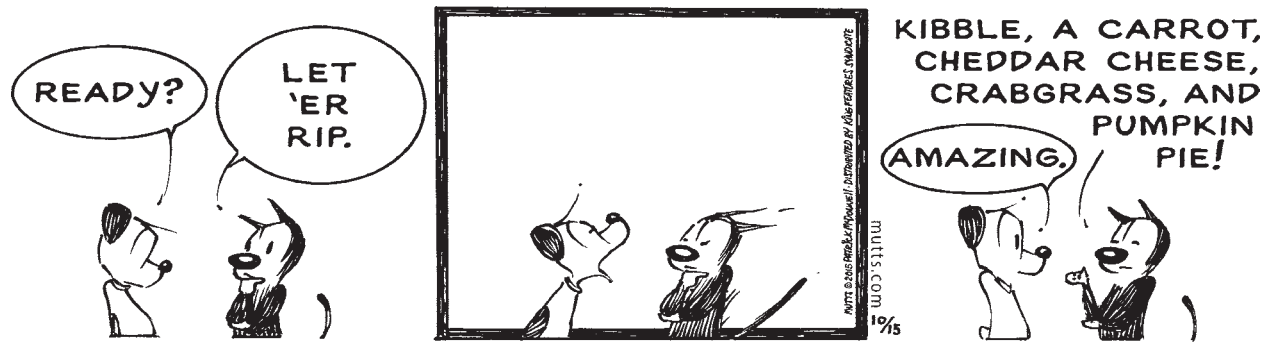
they're hitting it out of the park," Purk said.

Besides the coal declines, CSX also reported significant drops in shipments of fertilizers, industrial metals and housing construction waste.

The railroad cut its expenses 11 percent to just over \$2 billion because of lower fuel prices, lower costs related to shipping volume and improved efficiency.

CSX operates more than 21,000 miles of track in 23 Eastern states and two Canadian provinces. □

Mutts



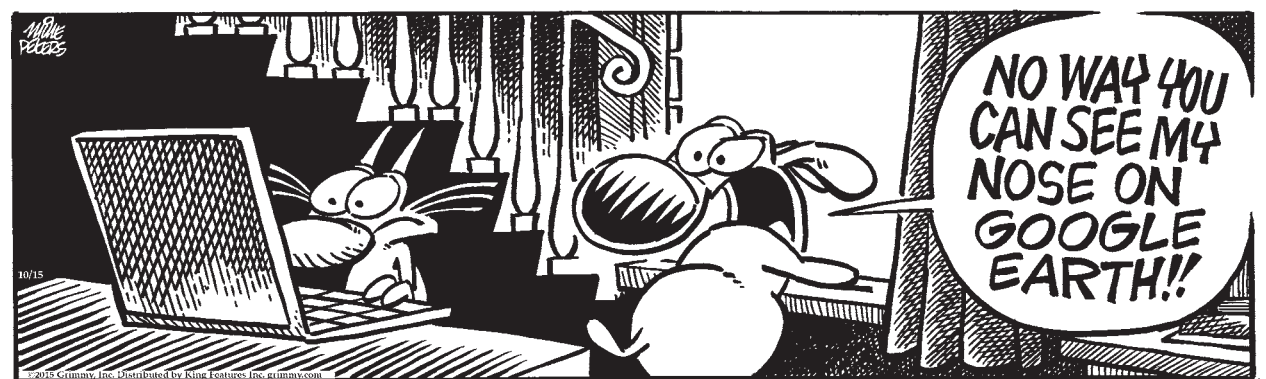
6 Chix



Blondie



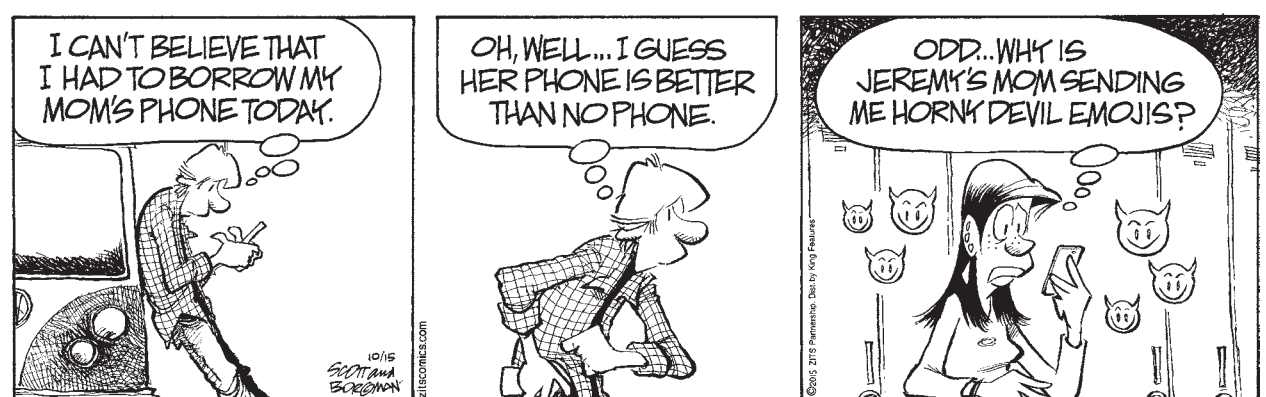
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | | | | 8 |
| | | 2 | | | | | | |
| | | | 9 | | 8 | | | 1 |
| | | | | 2 | | | | |
| 5 | | | 3 | | 7 | | | |
| | | | | | | 9 | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | |
| | 3 | | | | | | 8 | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

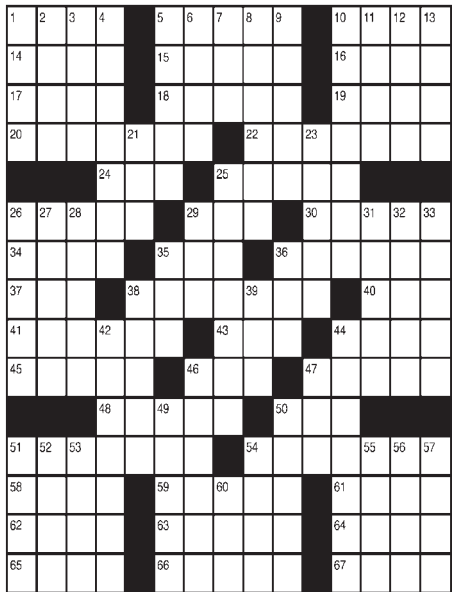
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 |

ACROSS

- Troubles
- Pack animals
- Songbird
- Actor Wyle
- Daring feat
- Microwave, e.g.
- Four and five
- Long attack
- Lunch spot
- Tennis shoe
- Deadlock
- Doggy doc
- First stage
- Primp
- Make fun of
- Actor Stacy
- Scientists' workplaces
- Sandwich letters
- Pamper
- Sit-up targets
- Leftover part
- VP Quayle
- Portugal's peninsula
- Hired vehicle
- One named in a will
- Eats
- Actor Elliott
- Unsanitary
- Wild
- Actress Farrow
- Covered by a health care plan
- Purse
- Tap the horn
- French farewell
- Intelligent
- One and only
- Of the kidneys
- Actor West
- Most common conjunctions
- Ginger cookies
- Strong urges

DOWN

- Hotels
- Cut of pork
- Road division
- Grain bundles
- Opposite of a liability
- Commotion
- Take to court
- Fire __; truck with a siren
- Flower stalks
- Found
- Gardner and her namesakes
- Sports officials, for short
- Part of the leg
- Actor Berry
- Tea variety
- Illusion; mirage, for one
- Kilt pattern
- Jewish leader
- Jed Clampett's portrayer
- Gore & Pacino
- Deadly snake
- State one's right to
- Actor Winkler
- "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"
- Baby bear
- Early __; one up at dawn
- Beaver project
- Disproves



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/15/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| POOL | HAPPY | SCAN |
| RARE | ERASE | TORO |
| OHIO | REDISTRICT | |
| DUG | ANNS | RINSE |
| INDIA | DEC | |
| CANADA | CRATES | |
| LIARS | STOAT | GIT |
| ALLY | DOING | TOGO |
| MEL | PILES | NICHE |
| DYNAMO | DURESS | |
| IRE | LINEN | |
| SPACE | BOASTED | |
| LACERATION | TRAY | |
| APES | SENSE | RISE |
| MAST | ANDES | ACTS |

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10/15/15

- Making __; moving forward
- Make blue
- Clear liquor
- Fannies
- Injures through rough handling
- "__ Small World"
- Middy
- Convinced
- Stack
- __ one's time; wait
- As hairy __ ape
- Jewels
- __ word; briefly

Classifieds

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 2 br week 40 room #5014 o.v.
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 2 br ocean front Gold season
 price: \$20,000
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| Week | room | price |
|-------------|----------|---------|
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| wk 37 | room 332 | \$2,750 |
| wk 38 | room 529 | \$4,750 |
| wk 40 | room 336 | \$3,750 |
| wk 40 | room 105 | \$5,000 |
| wk 42 | room 103 | \$3,250 |
| wk 42 | room 338 | \$4,000 |
| wk 43 | room 329 | \$3,250 |
| wk 49 | room 144 | \$5,500 |
| wk 48 or 49 | room 119 | \$4,750 |
| wk 48 or 49 | room 551 | \$5,500 |
| wk 49 or 50 | room 203 | \$5,500 |
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24/7

Zimbabwe's lion guard program helps protect rural villages

TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI

Associated Press
HWANGE NATIONAL PARK, Zimbabwe (AP) — Standing 20 feet (six meters) from a lion, Charles Tshuma was armed with just a plastic horn. He and some neighbors blew the vuvuzelas to frighten away the lion, but the big cat did not budge. They kept blowing their horns and shouting and screaming until the lion turned away and ambled back into Hwange National Park, leaving Tshuma's rural community. It's not always so easy, said Tshuma.

"Sometimes people in the village do not want to join in to chase away the lions, choosing instead to lock themselves indoors," he said.

That is the life of Zimbabwe's lion guards, brave community members selected and trained to prevent attacks on humans and cattle by big cats who stray from the unfenced Hwange park, which sprawls over 14,500 square kilometers (5,625 sq. miles) in western Zimbabwe.

The killing of Cecil the lion by an American hunter near Hwange park in July caused international outrage. But the biggest threat to Hwange's more than 500 lions is conflict with surrounding cattle farmers, say researchers. The innovative lion guard program is designed to protect both humans and

lions.

Oxford University's Lions Research Project has tracked and studied over 30 lion prides (families) in its 15 years here. Seeing many attacks by lions

lions have collars with satellite tracking devices so the researchers can inform surrounding villages when and where lions have left the park.

Equipped with mountain

blocks together to scare away the lions. They also use bright lights and light watch fires at night.

The name Long Shields refers to the Matabele warriors of the late 19th century

"We definitely know that the program has actually been able to chase some lions from the community back into the park so in that way it becomes effective," said Lovelater Sedede, a parks ecologist, but she warns: "Lions running away from the sound of vuvuzelas do not totally eradicate the problem. Lions could get used to it and hence there is need for more research methods to fight lion and human conflict."

The surrounding communities are pleased with the results.

"We have noticed that the challenges from predators have gone down ... our animals are protected and the predators are kept away," said Vincent Mangenyo, a local leader. Forty percent of the fatalities of lions in the Oxford study are at the hands of livestock owners or as a result of their attacks on livestock, said Stapelkamp, representing the single biggest cause of death.

"I can't ... tell the world that lions are the most important thing in the world and we must conserve them," he said. "I can't, because there are people who are hungry, starving in Zimbabwe. They lose all their livestock to a lion in a night."

But thanks to the Long Shield guards, not only are livestock saved, noted Stapelkamp, so are lions. □



In this photo taken Tuesday Sept. 29, 2015 a lion guard, wearing a lion-like mask, demonstrates how he scares off lions using a plastic horn during a training session at their base in Hwange, south west of Zimbabwe's capital Harare.

Associated Press

wandering out of the park, the researchers in 2007 launched the Long Shields program to reduce lion-human conflicts.

Since then, there has been a 40 percent decline in those conflicts, according to Brent Stapelkamp, a researcher with the Oxford project. Many of Hwange's

bikes, mobile phones and a GPS tracker, the guards go to the area to turn back the straying lions. They blow their vuvuzelas and alert other members of the community. People then gather, carrying whips and sticks and some wearing lion-like masks. They play drums and clap wooden

ry who were known as "the people of the long shields," for the tall rawhide shields they carried into battle. Even though there's an average of 30 lions-human conflicts per month, communities surrounding Hwange have seen a decline in lions attacking cattle.

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Inside the lavish visual feast of 'Crimson Peak'

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fear is written in the walls of "Crimson Peak's" crumbling haunted mansion. Literally.

Director Guillermo del Toro had his production and design teams fashion the word into the cracks and crevasses of the woodwork and furniture throughout the massive, three-story manor, which they built from the ground up specifically for the gothic thriller. It's not that del Toro thinks that spelling out the word fear will make the experience of watching the film any scarier. In fact he doesn't even believe in subliminal messages at all. (Ghosts, mind you, are another story.)

But it is one among dozens of hidden in plain sight treats and thematically relevant motifs woven into the visuals of the painstakingly designed film about a young American novelist, Edith (Mia Wasikowska) who comes to live in the eerie estate of her new husband, Thomas (Tom Hiddleston) and his sister, Lucille (Jessica Chastain), in 1901.

The director, who has cre-

ated fantastically dark worlds in films like "Pan's Labyrinth," wanted "Crimson Peak," out Friday, to feel as grand as an old Hollywood production. Building a three-story house with

on the same page, Del Toro asked his wardrobe and production design teams to read and study the character biographies he'd crafted for his three leads. "The second man-

While there are other locations, Allerdale Hall is the wheezing, bleeding centerpiece of "Crimson Peak," where the untold horrors of the past converge in all their decadent

eight years to make. Everybody wanted it to be smaller or PG-13 and I didn't agree on either of those," said del Toro. (The bloody film ended up securing an R-rating).

Members of the key artistic team, including production designer Tom Sanders, costume designer Kate Hawley, and supervising art director Brandt Gordon, were given an almost luxurious amount of time to prep before pre-production began.

"In contemporary cinema, there is often a mandate to try to keep things as economical as possible and to try to keep prep as short as possible. This was totally different," said Gordon. He calls the four months in Toronto their "pre-conceptual production phase."

It was all about ideas, and Del Toro was there daily to discuss everything while Sanders built models.

Once pre-production was underway, they spent about 14 weeks building the house before their February shoot date. For the crew, that meant having 10 completely distinct sets ready to go at the same time, which proved to be quite a challenge. □



In this image released by Legendary Pictures and Universal Pictures, Mia Wasikowska listens to director Guillermo del Toro on the set of "Crimson Peak." Associated Press

a functioning elevator, running water, and working fireplaces isn't a bad place to start, but beauty alone is trite. Everything needed to serve the story — even details that might not be obvious to the casual viewer.

To ensure everyone was

date was that everything in the movie, no matter how whimsical, needed to be rooted in reality," said del Toro in a recent interview. "I asked them to always have a photograph or a reference of the period to back up any choice."

glory. Truly, the walls ooze red clay and the house creaks and moans and breathes, thanks to a gaping hole in the foyer ceiling. "I wanted to make it feel like a character. I wanted to create it from scratch. That's why the movie took

Sting, Mylene Farmer play lovers in 'hot' new music video

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sting and French singer Mylene Farmer play steamy lovers in a new music video for their duet. In person, they play like old friends who kiss on the cheek.

Farmer remade Sting's 2003 song "Stolen Car" and released the single last month. In a recent interview, the pair finished each other's sentences and Farmer even gave Sting a kiss on the cheek after gushing about the new tune.

"It's a great song. I'm very, very happy to do this and share this," she said. "And then I'm going to kiss Sting on the cheek."

"Wow. I love my job," Sting said with a smile on his face. Sting, 64, and Farmer, 54, said they decided to collaborate after years of being friends. In recent years, Farmer attended a Sting concert in London and saw his musical, "The Last Ship," on Broadway in New York City.

Their new video premiered Tuesday.

"It was hot. It was hot. And a lot of fun," Sting said.

"Was it?" Farmer asked.

"I mean hot in a different kind of way than what you mean," he said as Farmer laughed. "It's a very sexy video."

Sting said he originally intended to feature a female vocalist on "Stolen

Car" when it was released on the 2003 album "Sacred Love," making it perfect for the collaboration.

"(It's) a story about man who is very wealthy — he's a company director, he has a beautiful wife, two lovely children, but he also has a girlfriend. And it's ... the girlfriend's saying, 'You have to take me dancing sometimes. I live in the quiet; I live in dark the whole time,'" he said.

"And I feel alone," Farmer added.

They recorded the song in Paris, and it will appear on Farmer's album "Interstellaire," out Nov. 6.

Farmer, who has released 10 studio albums and sold 11 million albums world-



In this Sept. 17, 2015 photo, Sting and Mylene Farmer pose for a portrait at MSR Studios in New York. Associated Press

wide, rewrote the song to add her section in French. Sting compared recording "Stolen Car" with Farmer to dancing with a partner.

"You know when you sing together and you sing in harmony and you have to phrase with another person, you'll have to learn how they phrase and they

have to learn how you phrase, and it becomes like a dance. It's like a dance in the ear," he said. Outside of his duet with Farmer, Sting said he's working on his own music. "I'm almost thinking about it. I'm in the studio ... with younger musicians messing around," he said. □

Donald Trump to host 'SNL'



In this Oct. 7, 2015 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign stop in Waterloo, Iowa. Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has agreed to host "Saturday Night Live" next month. NBC said its former "Celebrity Apprentice" host will be the headliner of the Nov. 7 show. It's the second time he has hosted the venerable comedy institution; he was on the show in April 2004.

Trump has been ratings gold for nearly every television outlet he's touched since his candidacy took off this summer, the main reason behind record viewership for the two GOP candidates' debates in August and September. Sia will be the "Saturday Night Live" musical guest on the night that Trump hosts. □

Nielsen says 15.3 million watched Democratic debate

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — They aren't quite Trump numbers, but the 15.3 million people who watched the Democratic presidential debate on CNN was still the biggest TV audience ever for a Democratic debate. The Nielsen company said Tuesday's debate audience exceeded the 10.7 million people who watched Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama debate on ABC in April 2008. Buoyed by the television-friendly candidacy of Donald Trump, the two Republican presidential debates were record-setters. The first debate, on Fox News Channel in August, was seen by 24 million viewers and the second, on CNN last month, had 23.1 million viewers. CNN also showed the Dem-

ocratic debate online, with usage peaking at 980,000 concurrent streams. The point in the debate where Bernie Sanders said he'd had enough of talk about Clinton's emails was the most-watched moment for DVR users who rewound to see it over, according to the digital video recorder maker TiVo. Besides Trump, one clue to the lower ratings for Democrats may be the audience composition. The research firm Samba TV noted that 48 percent of the people who watched the Democratic debate said they'd seen at least one of the Republican candidates' forums. Meanwhile, only 21 percent of the Republican debate audience tuned in to watch the Democrats, the company said. The debate also stacks up well compared to television entertainment. □



In this image released by HBO, Emilia Clarke appears in a scene from "Game of Thrones." Associated Press

Esquire's Sexiest Woman Alive is the sultry Emilia Clarke

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's most definitely Emilia Clarke's year.

The 28-year-old Londoner, who plays menacing, white-haired Daenerys Targaryen, aka Khaleesi, aka Mother of Dragons on "Game of Thrones," is Esquire's Sexiest Woman Alive.

The magazine made the announcement early Tuesday, but GQ got there first, anointing Clarke Woman of the Year in September. In addition to her high-profile role on the massively popular HBO series, Clarke was Sarah Connor in the summer movie hit "Terminator Genisys."

She can do fierce, but also friendly. She can be queen, but also kid sister, killer or girl next door, writes Benjamin Markovits in the Esquire story accompanying Clarke's nude cover, belly down with bedsheet strategically placed.

Lisa Hintelmann, editorial projects director for the magazine, called Clarke the all-around favorite.

"Emilia Clarke is unforgettable in 'Game of Thrones'

and was hands down the number one choice of Esquire's staff, friends and family," she said in an email.

On the pages of the November Esquire, with more sultry photos inside, she is also "Lilly," the alias she takes after donning a disguise to frolic at London's Crystal Palace Park with Markovits for a round of "Game of Phones," a group treasure hunt thought up by a social networking company and intended to help people make new friends in a new city.

She isn't recognized. Clarke is the second child of by-the-bootstraps parents. Mom started as a secretary and rose to marketing executive and dad made it out of working-class Wolverhampton near Birmingham to become a roadie, then sound specialist for big-budget musicals. She followed her brother into boarding school because "I fancied his friends," she told Esquire, then she went on to study drama in college, pulling a couple of episodes on the long-running British day-

time soap "Doctors" after graduation. She worked multiple jobs while living with friends before "Game of Thrones" changed her life when it began airing in 2011.

Clarke recalled some difficulties on the show early on. She was just 23. There was full frontal nudity, lots of sex, even a rape scene. She tells Markovits how she suffered along with her character.

"Once, I had to take a little time out," she said. "I said I needed a cup of tea, had a bit of a cry, and was ready for the next scene." That's what the English call "mucking in," or striking a balance between helping out and getting your hands dirty while maintaining a smile on your face, Markovits writes. Clarke, he said, is good at it. She recalled in the story, due to hit newsstands on Oct. 20, her father's early warnings about lowering expectations as an actress when she first started out, and her days working at a call center. Sexy but still real, Markovits declares, "is the gorgeous balance of Emilia Clarke." □

Less skin: Playboy to stop running pictures of nude women

JOHN ROGERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Playboy is about to find out how many people really do read the magazine for the articles.

The magazine that helped usher in the sexual revolution in the 1950s and '60s by bringing nudity into America's living rooms — or at least its sock drawers — announced this week that it will no longer run photos of naked women.

Playboy has seen its circulation plunge in recent decades as it has fallen victim to some of the very forces it helped set in motion. First it had to deal with competition from more sexually explicit magazines like Penthouse and Hustler. Now the Internet is awash in high-definition porn.

Playboy has decided that the answer is less skin, not more.

"You're now one click away from every sex act imaginable for free. And so it's just passé at this juncture," Playboy Enterprises CEO Scott Flanders told The New York Times.

Starting in March, Playboy's print edition will still feature women in sexy, provocative poses, but they will no longer be fully nude. It will become more like Esquire and other magazines with PG-13-type pictures.

The Times said the magazine has not decided whether to continue having a centerfold.

Playboy became famous for publishing nude photos of some of the world's most famous women. Marilyn Monroe was its first centerfold, 62 years ago.

Although the change represents a major shift for the magazine, it is also the latest step away from full nudity, which was banned



In this Nov. 15, 2007 photo, Hugh Hefner smiles while signing copies of the Playboy calendar and Playboy Cover To Cover: The 50's DVD box set in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



This image released by Playboy shows Darine Stern on the cover of the October 1971 issue of the gentleman's magazine.

Associated Press



This image released by Playboy shows Kate Moss on the cover of the January/February 2014 60th anniversary issue of the gentleman's magazine.

Associated Press



This image released by Playboy shows Playmate of the Year Anna Nicole Smith on the cover of the June 1993 issue of the gentleman's magazine.

Associated Press

from Playboy's website in August 2014. That helped make the site safer for work and public places, and enabled Playboy to get onto Facebook, Twitter and other platforms.

The magazine has said its online audience soared with that move, averag-

ing a fourfold increase in monthly unique visitors.

During Playboy's print heyday, readers could plausibly, if not always convincingly, claim they read it for its fiction, journalism and interviews.

It published the work of

such writers as John Updike, Jack Kerouac, Norman Mailer, Ray Bradbury and Joseph Heller, and interviewed the likes of Jimmy Carter, Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra and Bob Dylan.

One of the magazine's vet-

eran contributors, celebrity interviewer David Rensin, praised the move away from full nudity as something Playboy should have done years ago.

"It's a good business move. The magazine's got to keep up with the times," said Rensin, whose long list of interview subjects includes Bill Gates, Jerry Seinfeld, Martin Scorsese and, more recently, Lena Dunham and Scarlett Johansson.

For every newsmaker or celebrity who said yes to a Playboy interview, Rensin told The Associated Press on Tuesday, there were others who said no because they didn't want their words to appear next to or near photographs of naked women.

The Times said taking full nudity out of the magazine was something the 89-year-old Hugh Hefner signed off on when Playboy editor Cory Jones ran the idea by him.

"The political and sexual climate of 1953, the year Hugh Hefner introduced Playboy to the world, bears almost no resemblance to today," Flanders said in a statement. "We are more free to express ourselves politically, sexually and culturally today, and that's in large part thanks to Hef's heroic mission to expand those freedoms."

The shift will be accompanied by other changes in the magazine, including a slightly larger size and heavier, higher-quality paper meant to give the magazine a more collectible feel.

Playboy's print circulation, measured at 5.6 million in 1975, is now about 800,000, according to Alliance for Audited Media, the Times reported. □

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Anger Grows as New Migrants Sent to Tiny Dutch Village



Migrants leave the Oranje vacation park in the village of Oranje, Netherlands, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015, whose local population of 130 is overwhelmingly outnumbered by hundreds of migrants.
(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

ORANJE, Netherlands (AP)

— In this tiny Dutch village, Jan Voortman's garden center has added some new products to its lineup of plants, seeds and wooden clogs: falafel, couscous and water pipes.

The enterprising store owner is capitalizing on the newest residents of rural Oranje, until recently population 130: Hundreds of asylum seekers from as far away as Syria, Sudan and Eritrea who are being housed in a disused vacation camp. But the resolutely cheerful Voortman sees his fellow townspeople adopting a starkly different attitude.

Villagers who a year ago grudgingly accepted the arrival of 700 migrants reacted furiously last week when the government announced it was sending up to 700 more, turning Oranje into the latest flashpoint in an increasingly polarized debate about how this densely populated nation of 17 million can accommodate thousands of migrants pouring into the country.

Similar frictions are emerging elsewhere in Europe as the continent struggles to absorb hundreds of thousands of people. Villagers

and townsfolk in some parts of Germany also have protested against the arrival of asylum seeker centers, though many others in the country also do plenty to help migrants.

In the end, 103 new migrants were bused into

of suitable housing elsewhere.

Oranje was chosen because of its 1,400-bed vacation village, but villagers saw the decision as a betrayal by the central government based more than 200 kilometers (125 miles)

from the capital. Justice Minister Klaas Dijkhoff broke the news to villagers on Tuesday that hundreds more could be on their way, he said, "everybody flipped."

One woman stood in front of Dijkhoff's car as he tried to leave the meeting. When she was pulled, screaming, to the side of the road, she fell and injured her arm. A man kicked the car as it drove away.

"I've had better evenings," Dijkhoff told reporters at the Dutch Parliament the following day. "But I understand that people were shocked."

Two days after the confrontation, the only trace of anger left in the cluster of houses lining the banks of the local canal was the village sign: The name Oranje had been covered in black spray paint and "Syria" scrawled underneath. It was not clear when the sign was defaced.

Many Dutch people are welcoming migrants with open arms, but plenty of

anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders has seen his Freedom Party rise in recent polls as he campaigns against new migrant centers. He argues that the Netherlands should simply close its borders.

But the asylum seekers keep coming. Some 3,000 arrived last week alone; the previous week saw 2,400 and the week before that 4,200.

That has left authorities scrambling for places to put them all. Vacation parks and sports halls are being pressed into service as emergency accommodation centers and local municipalities are being asked to look for other suitable locations.

So far, according to locals, problems caused by the massive influx in Oranje are confined to asylum seekers riding bicycles on the wrong side of the road or walking in the middle of streets at night, posing a risk to themselves and local motorists. But Mayor Ton Baas acknowledged that their arrival has radically changed the sleepy rural village.

"The people, refugees, come from another culture. They walk on the street more, they are outside. They have nothing to do. There's nothing to do," he said. "So they are on the street and that gives (the village) a totally different appearance."

One of this week's arrivals was Mohamad Ziad, a 28-year-old from Homs in Syria, who crossed Europe in a people-smuggler's truck after making the risky boat journey from Turkey to the Greek island of Rhodes.

As he shopped in Voortman's store, Ziad had kind words for the village of Oranje. "I really like it. You know, we are having our own room — especially your own bathroom — not sharing with each other," he said. "It's quiet and people like each other because, you know, we are all in the same situation." □



Jan Voortman passes a sign reading House of Hope in English and Arabic as he finishes cleaning up the bar area in his garden center in the village of Oranje, Netherlands, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015.
(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

Oranje, bringing the total to 803. The agency responsible for housing asylum seekers called the decision to send more people to Oranje "difficult but unavoidable" given the lack

away in The Hague, which after sending 700 people last year had pledged not to send any more.

"It was going well. Everybody was satisfied," Voortman said. When junior Jus-

others are opposing moves to set up centers for asylum seekers in their towns and villages.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte has faced criticism for his handling of the crisis, while